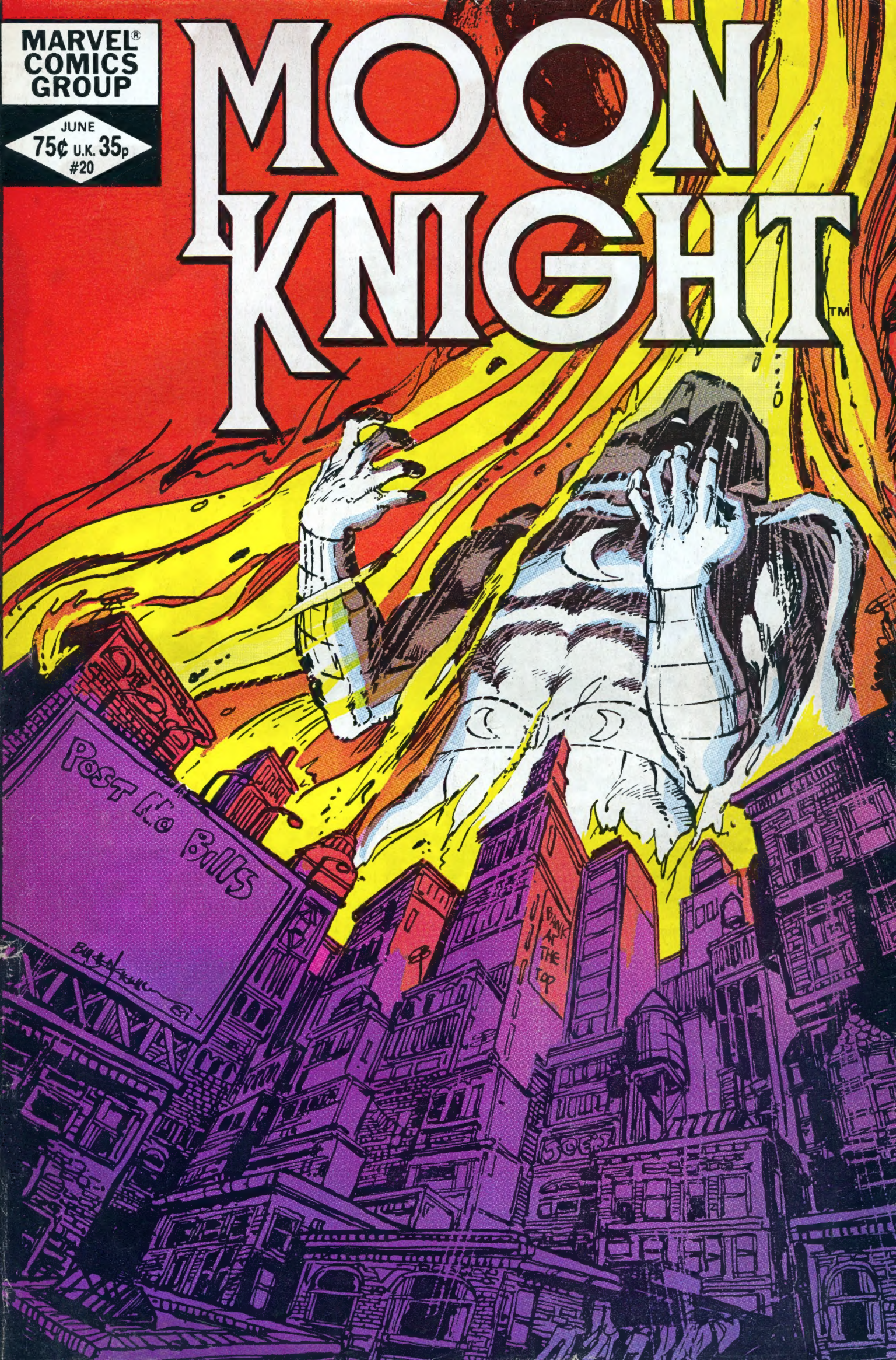

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
JUNE
75¢ U.K. 35p
#20
MOON KNIGHT™
POST NO BILLS
BANK AT THE TOP
XMAS

SLOT Machine BANK

Las Vegas Replica. Take a chance. Insert coin, pull "one arm bandit" and watch dials spin. Big payoff if you hit! Collect money for your bank. Smooth action. 6" high. Not for gambling.

☐ 4082. Slot Bank $9.98

Secret Book Safe

Looks like attractively bound book but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewelry, money, etc. hidden away. 4 x 6 x 1⅛".

☐ 4012. Book Safe $3.50

$1.15

Vibrating Shocker

Small hand-held instrument that simulates electric shock. Shake hands or touch somebody and it gives off spine-tingling "shock!"

☐ 2955. Joy Buzzer $1.15

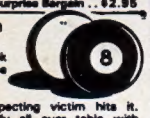
SURPRISE PACKAGE $1.25

Pleasant surprise and bargain. Includes new samples, factory surplus, special novelties, etc. Most worth much more.

☐ 2997. Surprise Bargain $1.25

☐ 9518. Deluxe Surprise Bargain .. $2.95

Crazy-Action Billiard Balls



Great way to break up a serious game of pool. Looks like regular ball until your unsuspecting victim hits it. Wanders erratically all over table with strangest "English" you've ever seen. Regulation size.

☐ 2961. Crazy Cue Ball $5.50
☐ 2967. Crazy 8 Ball $5.50

Phony Brick

For those times when you're mad & you're not going to take it anymore! Throw our phony brick! Made of foam rubber. Looks real. Fools them & relieves your stress.

☐ 7317. Phony Brick $1.65

Bowler's & Fishermen's Excuse Shirts

Give plenty of hilarious ways to explain how & why things went wrong. Keep handy for your "bad days," or wear just for laughs. You must specify shirt color: light blue, yellow or black. Also specify adult shirt size: M, L, ExL.

☐ 9907P. Bowler's Excuse Shirt ... $6.98
☐ 9908P. Fishermen's Excuse Shirt . $6.98

Hand Timer

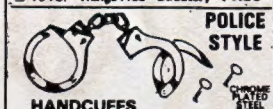
Fun timer for non-professional events such as model races, sports, etc. Full pocket-watch size with chain link. Spring operated. Start and stop button. Sweep hand. Calibrated dial.

☐ 2020. Hand Timer .. $1.79

1001 THINGS FREE

Get FREE articles, novelties, books, stamps, coins, shower tickets, games, films, products, maps, toys, food-drug, samples, science materials, records, jewelry, hobbies, travel info., etc. Mammoth directory of over 1000 free offers with names and addresses. 64 pages.

☐ 1018. "Things Free" Directory $1.25

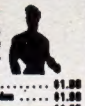


POLICE STYLE HANDCUFFS

CHROME PLATED STEEL

☐ 9043. Handcuffs with Keys... $7.98
☐ 9048. Handcuff Case $2.75

Unbeatable Self Defense



Learn Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Boxing, Wrestling, Muscle Building, Self Defense Tricks. Well illustrated, easy to understand paper covered books. Up to 95 pages long.

☐ 1255. 50 Tricks of Self Defense $1.98
☐ 1256. How to Build Mighty Muscles $1.98
☐ 1271. How to Box $1.25
☐ 1286. Combat Judo $1.98

Electric Sound Switch

SURPLUS BARGAIN! ONLY $1.95. Turns on lights, bells, horns, sirens, alarms, tape recorders, wireless mikes, etc. Operates by voice, whistle or any sound from across room. Do mysterious tricks & stunts. Great for experimenters, electronic bugs. NOT A KIT. 2 for only $3.98

☐ 9561. Voice Command Switch $2.50

Hercules Wrist Band $1.95

Gives rugged, masculine appearance. Double strap for "he-man" look. Adjustable. Get two - one for each arm. Genuine leather.

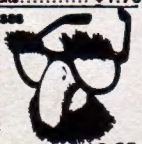
☐ 2112. Each $1.95
Set of 2, $3.80

1001 Insults, Putdowns, For All Occasions

A putdown, barb, wisecrack or snappy comeback for every occasion. Find one to fit every situation, every type person.

☐ 1171. 1001 Insults $1.75

Fuzzy Puss Glasses



Great disguise in seconds. Horn rim glasses with realistically formed nose, super bushy eyebrows & mustache. Carry with you as instant laugh getter.

☐ 4364. Fuzzy Puss $3.25

SQUIRT LIGHTER

Funniest "Bic Flick" ever! Real disposable Bic butane lighter is gimmicked so that unsuspecting victim gets face full of water. Easy to reload. Use over & over.

☐ 2023. Squirt Lighter $5.50

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Dept. 3106, 35075 Automation, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043

Things You Never Knew Existed

Since 1914

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Giant Solar UFO

Soars hundreds of feet into the sky. No batteries. No motors. No helium. All you need is sun. Nothing to build. Nothing to buy. Ready to fly. Just release & watch it rise. Awes & amazes all who watch. Use again & again. Made of thin plastic film. With 65-ft. nylon cord to which you can add additional cord. 10-ft. long x 2-ft. wide.

☐ 7672. Giant Solar UFO ..$7.95

Deluxe Revolving Police Style Warning Light Only $8.95

Revolves just like authentic police emergency light. Attach to car roof or dashboard in seconds. Also makes excellent psychedelic party light. Really get into the music & the mood with brilliant red beams revolving eerily around the room. With suction cup base for fast attachment. About 6" tall. Uses standard batteries.

☐ 9527. Rotating Police Light .. $8.95

OFFICIAL PAC MAN T-SHIRT

Every "Pac Man" Freak should own one. Lets everyone know you're the Pac Man star. Best quality U.S. made poly-cotton white T-shirt with blue trim. With bright 4-color official Pac Man screen imprint as shown. Available in adult sizes only! M, L, ExL.

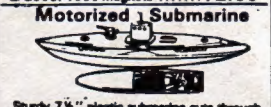
☐ 9826. Pac Man Shirt (size?).... $8.98

1000 TINY MAGNETS

Fantastic fun bargain. Do tricks, stunts, experiments. Arrange in millions of patterns. Stick together with own power. Easy to change. Each 1/8x1/8x1/16".

☐ 2008. 1000 Magnets $2.50

Motorized Submarine



Sturdy 7½" plastic submarine cuts through water powered by battery operated heavy-duty underwater motor. Runs on pen-cell battery. 5" motor is waterproof sealed, with adjustable rubber & built-in switch.

☐ 2992. Submarine $3.50

GIANT BALLOONS

Weather balloon made of neoprene rubber. Do entertaining stunts, advertising effects, science fun, etc. 24 ft. around. Can be seen for miles

☐ 3010. 8 Ft. Balloon $7.98

Air Force Pilots Sunglasses

An exact copy of the famous U.S. Air Force regulation type sun glasses worn by flight personnel. Fully curved teardrop shaped optically ground lenses in green or mirror color. Sturdy frames in rhodium silver finish with full bows around the ears so they stay on securely. With plastic covered sweat bar. In leather-grain vinyl case inside individual display box, both imprinted with Air Force emblem and contract number.

☐ 6559. Green Lens Sunglasses ... $7.98
☐ 6557. Mirror Lens Sunglasses ... $9.98

Joke Gum

Pucker Gum. Putrid.
☐ 2738. Pkg. of 5 .. 75¢
Red Hot Gum. Blazing.
☐ 2724. Pkg. of 5 .. 75¢
Garlic Gum. Awful.
☐ 2735. Pkg. of 5 .. 75¢

DISAPPEARING INK

When ink is spilled on clothes it looks like an ugly blue mess — but wait, as it dries it disappears, leaving no trace. Gone in 5 minutes. Great gag. Use alone or in any pen.

☐ 2087. Trick Ink $1.35

Crooked Pencils

No two alike, but they REALLY WRITE! Regular pencils, except for crazy shapes. Set of 3.

☐ 2178. Crooked Pencils $1.95

Pocket Spy Telescope

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.

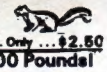
☐ 6724. Spy Scope $2.75

Red Flasher Light

$4.50 Police Style Warning Light. Big dome flashes on & off in bright red light visible far away. With suction cup base. Sticks tightly to any smooth surface like top of car. Runs on flashlight batteries. About 4".

☐ 7655. Flasher $4.50

Squirrel Call

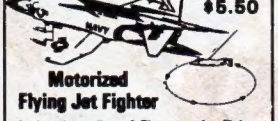


Brings them right to you. Hand operated. ☐ 4290. Only ... $2.50

Magnet Lifts 100 Pounds!

Lifts up to 100 Pounds SOLID STEEL! Tested & proven on steel block. GO TREASURE HUNTING. Do amazing stunts. 1001 uses. Pocket size.

☐ 4006. Lifts 50 lbs. $4.98
☐ 4055. Lifts 100 lbs. $7.98



$5.50

Motorized Flying Jet Fighter

Authentic replica of Phantom Jet Fighter really flies. Amazing speed. Hangs from ceiling by means of included self-stick mount & several feet of near invisible line. Ready-to-fly except for standard batteries (not incl.). On-off switch. 7½" long.

☐ 2083. Jet Fighter $5.50

Self-Inking Fun Stamps

Needs no ink. Instant graffiti. Put your mark on most anything, anywhere. Prints up to 1000 color impressions without ink. For letters, envelopes, "tatoo" friends, walls, books, etc. Gives strong impression. Pocket size.

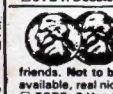
☐ 3125Y. Smile Face Stamp $1.75
☐ 3130Y. Rainbow Stamp $1.75
☐ 3132Y. Lips Stamp $1.75
☐ 3133Y. Feet Stamp $1.75
☐ 3134Y. Yuk Face Stamp $1.75
☐ 3135Y. Love Stamp $1.75

Double Billed Krazy Kap

Regulation baseball cap with 2 bills! Absolutely weird. Great for school, softball games, attracting attention, parties, etc. Bright red with white front panel & mesh back. Adjustable size.

☐ 9724. Double Bill Cap $6.50

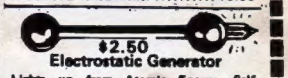
TWO HEADED NICKELS



Real nickels with heads on both sides. Fool your friends. Not to be used for gambling! Also available, real nickels with 2 tails

☐ 5975. 2 Headed Nickel $3.50
☐ 5976. 2 Tailed Nickel $3.50

$2.50 Electrostatic Generator



Lights up from Atomic Energy. Self-generating. Do experiments, stunts and tricks with amazing new device. Gold metallic balls accumulate high-voltage charge that causes neon light to light up when discharged. Operates on millions of electrons you accumulate as static electricity. Hold in hand, then touch ball to another person or object. Pocket size.

☐ 4097. Elect. Generator .... 3 for $3.98
Price Each $2.50

Portable Electric Fan

Keep cool wherever you go. Handy pocket size. Powerful. Use standard battery

☐ 6885. Pocket Fan $2.25

"Smoke" From Your Fingertips $1.25

Hundreds of magic or joke uses. Hands shown to be empty, then suddenly smoke appears from fingertips! Do over & over. No sleight; no manipulation. Nothing is lit or burned. Invisible smoke-producing paste spreads on fingers.

☐ 3116. Finger Smoke $1.25

GIANT SLIMY SNAKE

NEARLY 3 FEET LONG! Realistic. Threatening glare. Slimy feel. Guaranteed big & especially scary.

☐ 3695. Giant Snake . $3.50

MAGIC SCREW TRICK

You can instantly unscrew nut and remove ring BUT NO ONE ELSE CAN! The harder they try, the tighter it gets.

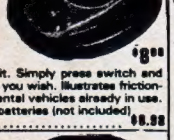
☐ 3148. Nut & Bolt Trick $3.95

Big Bang Fun Snaps

Real Bang-Up Fun! Squeeze 'em! Toss 'em! Step on 'em! Gives BIG BANG! Amazingly loud, yet you can pop them between your fingers without harm. Box of 50.

☐ 2082. Fun Snaps (2 boxes) $2.98

AIR CAR HOVERCRAFT RIDES ON AIR!



New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks, EVEN WATER! Sleek car of the future uses principle of air suspension to ride on cushion of air above most any surface. Colorful plastic, 8"x9"x2" high. 4" propeller. 48" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and this beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. Illustrates friction-less motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use. Not a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "D" batteries (not included)

☐ 7606. Hover Craft $8.98

X-RAY VISION

$1.98

Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin, see thru clothes, etc. Amaze and embarrass everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in optical illusion.

☐ 3762. XRAY Specs Only ..... $1.98 Per Pair

MIDGET CAMERA

$1.95

Guaranteed To Take Pictures! Black & White or Color! Uses standard 127 film. Takes 16 wallet size or 3½ x 5" shots per roll. Get developed anywhere or develop yourself. Camera is approx. size of cigarette pack. 3½ x 3 x 2". Weighs less than 2 oz. For surprise, regular or candid pictures. Heavy-duty plastic construction. With eye-level viewfinder. Single action shutter with lens.

☐ K4906. Midget Camera $1.95
☐ K4907. Black/white 127 film, roll $1.95
☐ K4903. Kodak Color Film, roll $2.95

SPY "PEN" RADIO

Real Working Radio Hidden in Pen Case!

Fits Into Your Pocket Like Pen!

Hear SPORTS, MUSIC, LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS in office, school, bed, etc. Slips into pocket like ordinary pen. Tiny earphone for listening. Full range tuner. Guaranteed to pull in several stations in your area, although reception will vary from place to place. No additional expense. NO BATTERIES NEEDED. Self-powered solid state circuit. Germanium diode type radio (pulls in radio waves from air). Ground wire included but not always necessary in most areas. Complete, ready-to-play. Money back if not delighted.

☐ 7052. Pen Radio $4.98

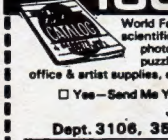
VENTRILOQUIST DUMMY

$3.75
Exclusive Import Bargain
Make Him Move, Act Life-Like, Seem to Talk, Sing, Laugh.

Full length 16-inch dummy with control to operate mouth and move head. No practice needed. "Talks" at once. Make him sit, stand, even dance and act alive! Fully dressed in colorful tailored suit. Molded plastic, natural finish head. Moveable arms and legs. INCLUDED FREE: 5-Minute Lesson on How to Throw Your Voice (With or without dummy). Fool friends as voices seem to come from under bed, behind doors, etc.

☐ 6156. Archie The Dummy $3.75
☐ 6075. Dumbo The Clown $3.75

Free 1982 Catalog 1600 Novelties



World Famous catalog of novelties, pranks, jokes, cloth patches, hobbies, scientific supplies, fun-makers, planes & boats, gadgets, time-savers, photo & optical goods, jewelry, disguises, music items, stamps, coins, puzzles, fortune tellers, radios, bikes & accessories, telescopes, banks, office & artist supplies, engines, motors, sports, books, models, magic, much more.

☐ Yes—Send Me Your Catalog. I have enclosed 10¢ postage (Canadian 50¢).

JOHNSON SMITH COMPANY

Dept. 3106, 35075 Automation, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043

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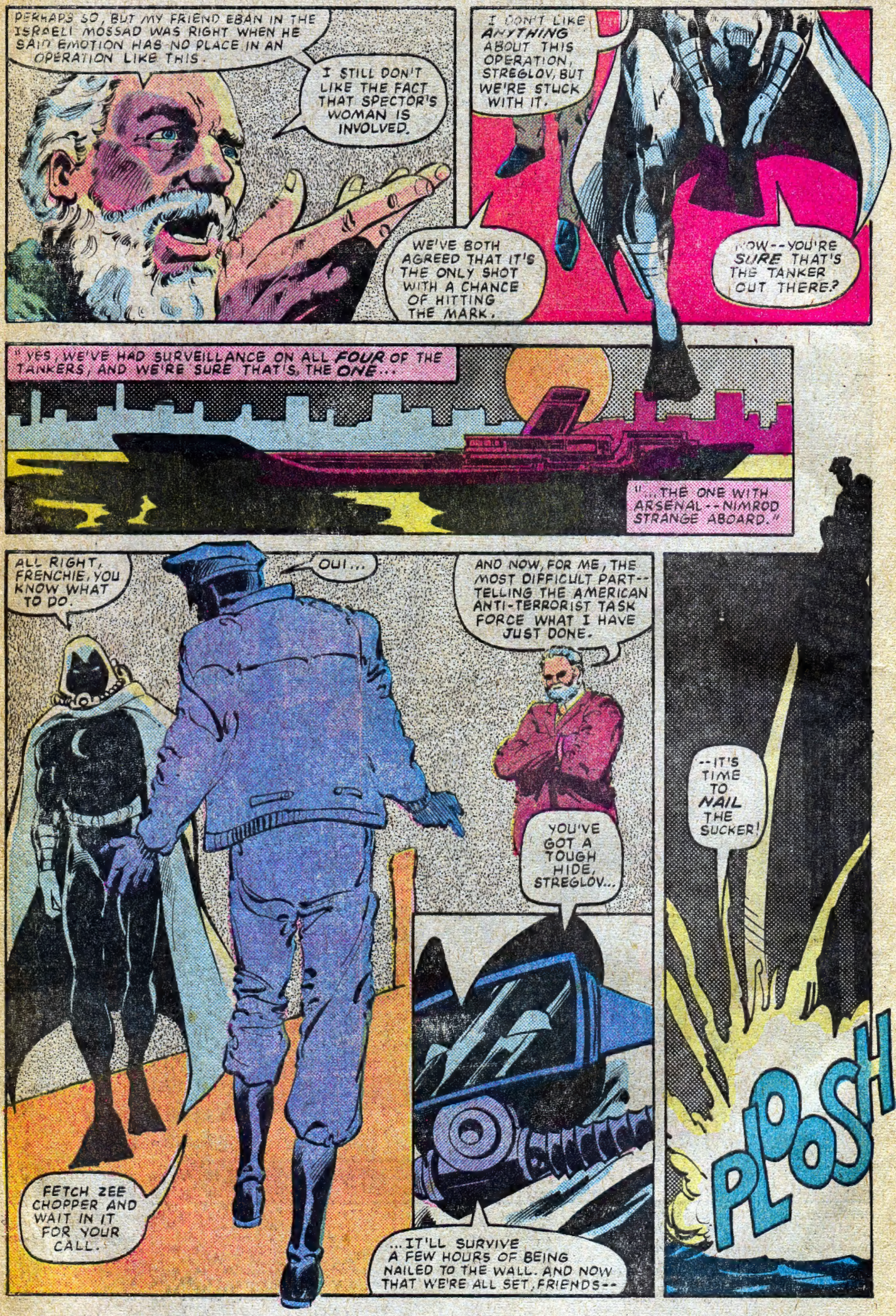
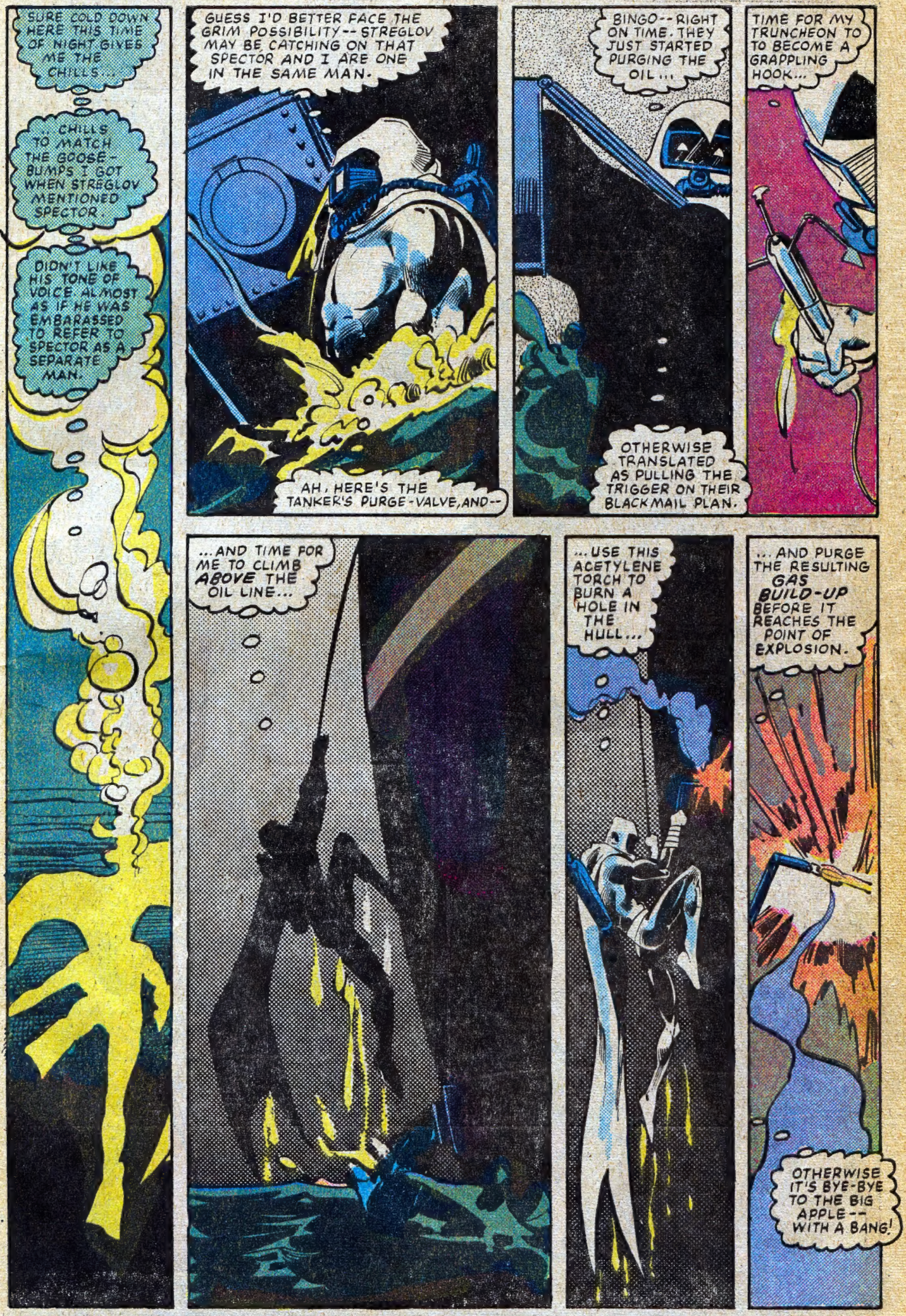
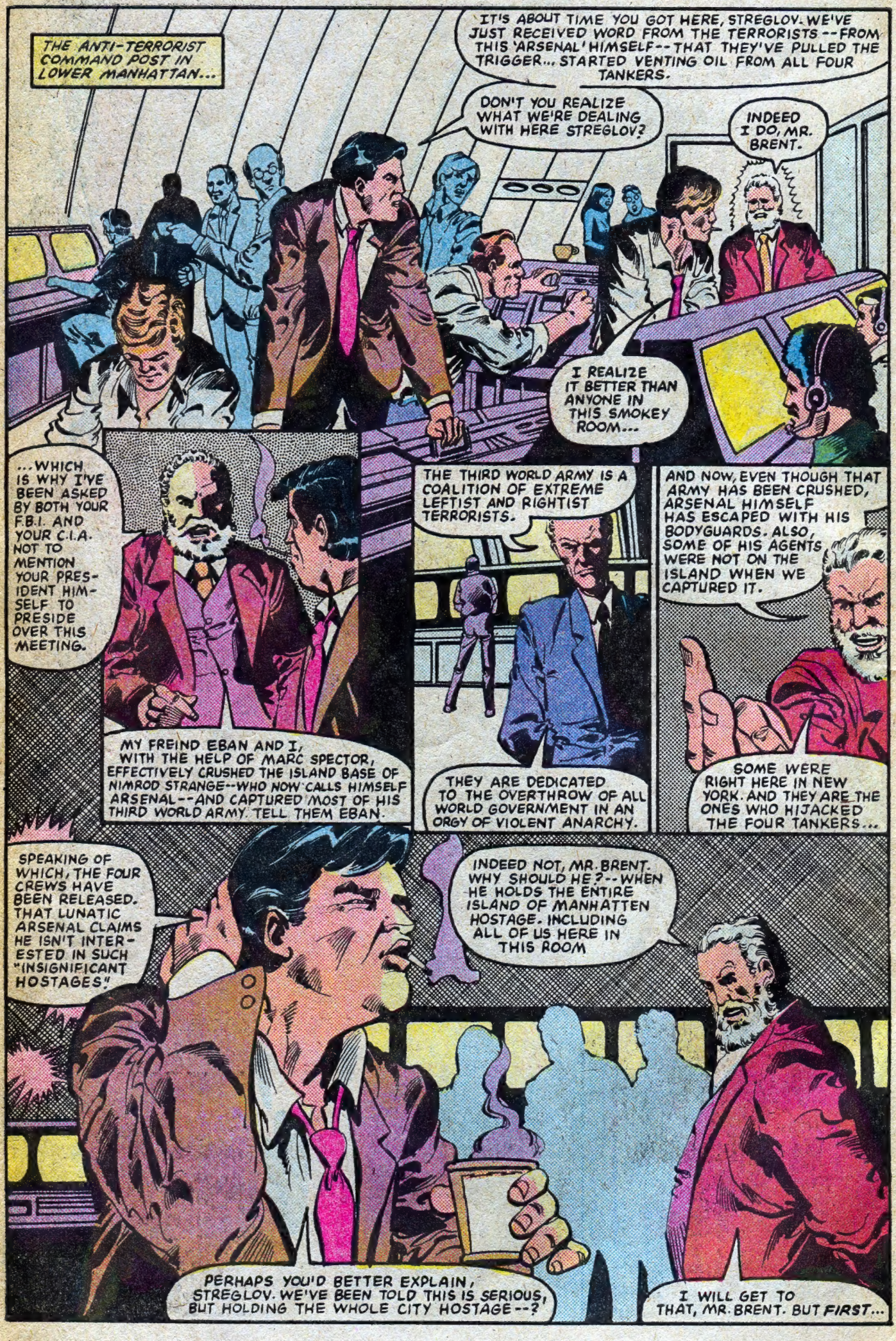
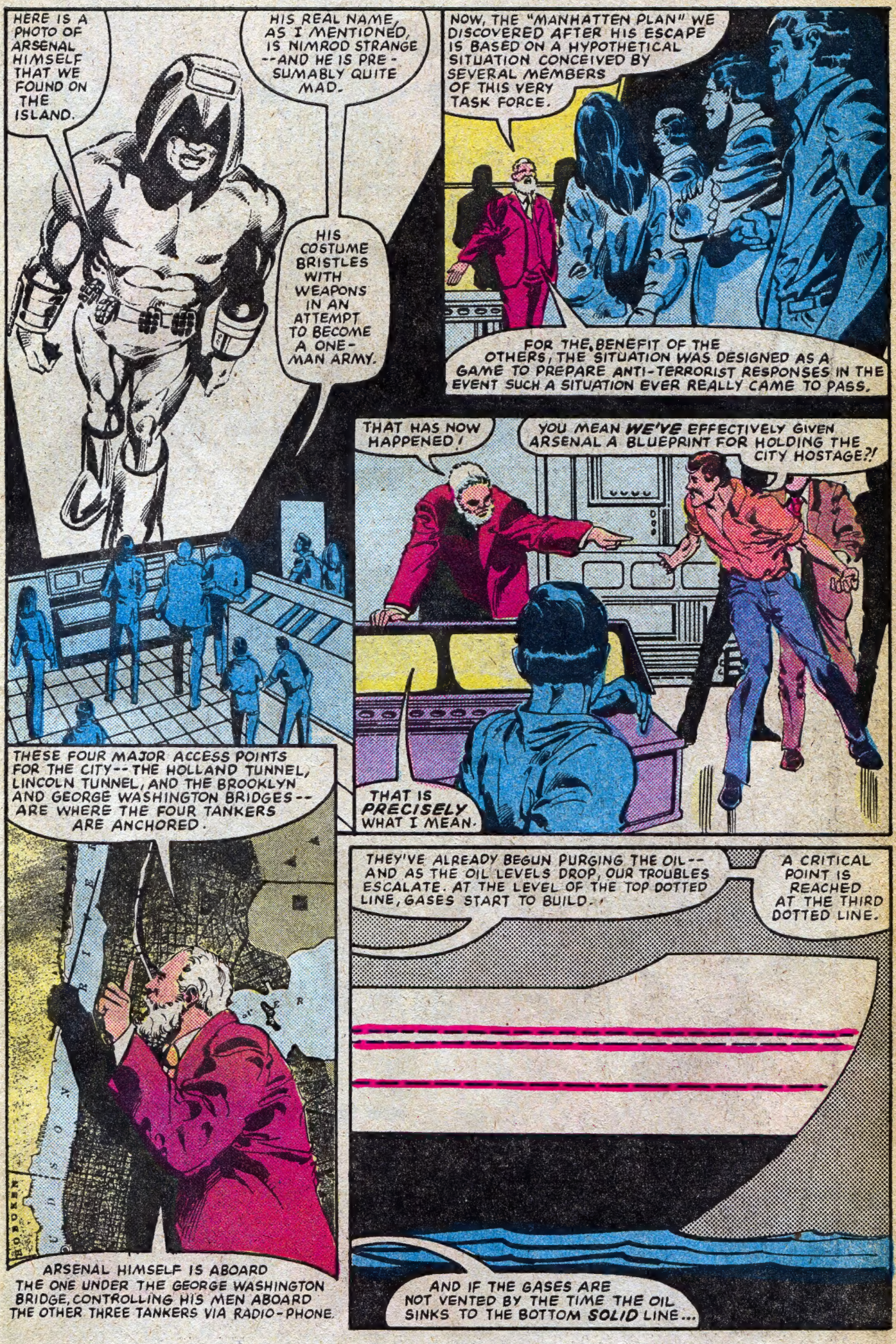
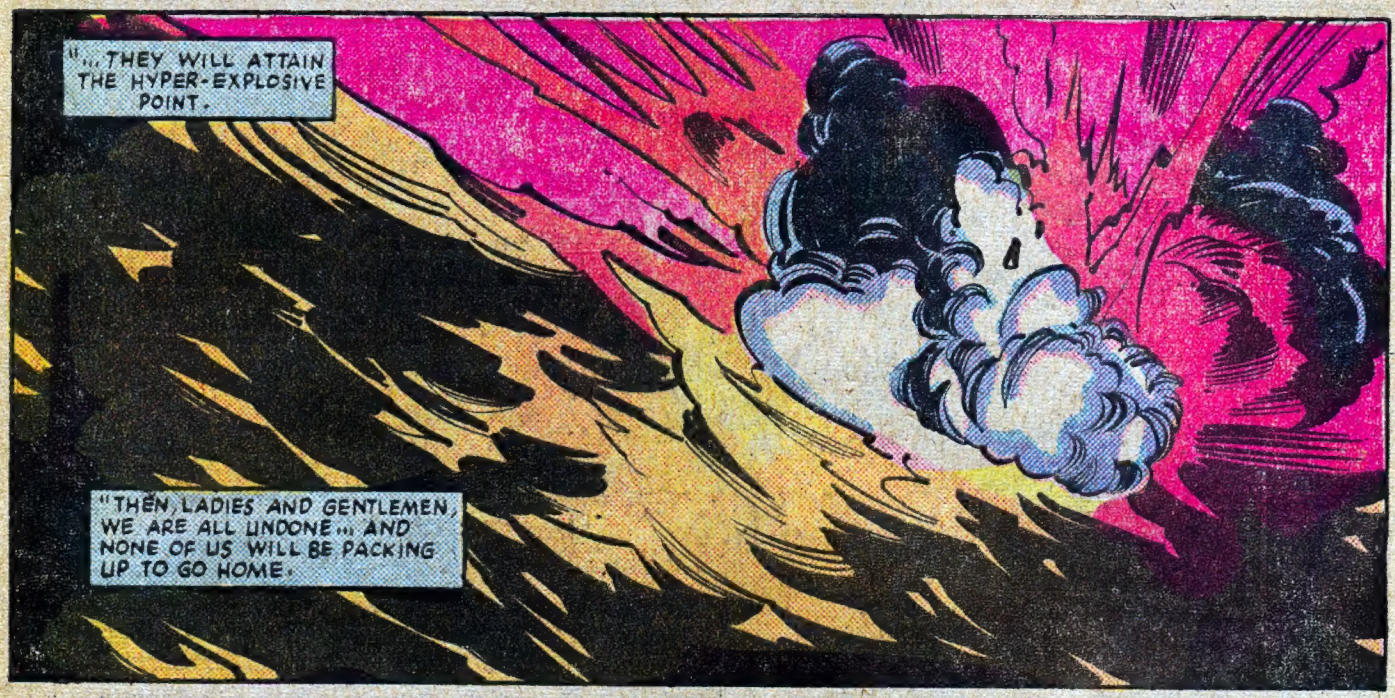
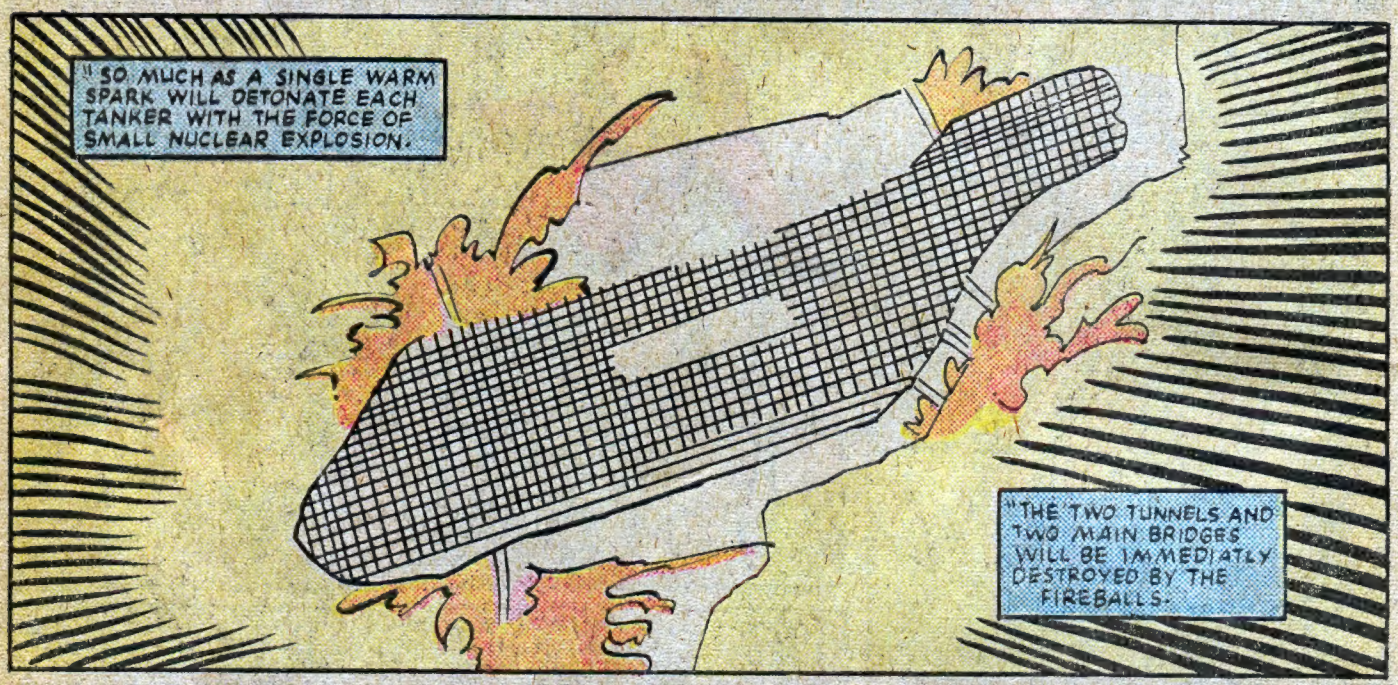

PERHAPS SO, BUT MY FRIEND EBAN IN THE ISRAELI MOSSAD WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID EMOTION HAS NO PLACE IN AN OPERATION LIKE THIS.
I STILL DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT SPECTOR'S WOMAN IS INVOLVED.
I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING ABOUT THIS OPERATION, STREGLOV, BUT WE'RE STUCK WITH IT.
WE'VE BOTH AGREED THAT IT'S THE ONLY SHOT WITH A CHANCE OF HITTING THE MARK.
NOW--YOU'RE SURE THAT'S THE TANKER OUT THERE?
"YES, WE'VE HAD SURVEILLANCE ON ALL FOUR OF THE TANKERS, AND WE'RE SURE THAT'S THE ONE...
"...THE ONE WITH ARSENAL--NIMROD STRANGE ABOARD."
ALL RIGHT, FRENCHIE, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
OUI...
AND NOW, FOR ME, THE MOST DIFFICULT PART--TELLING THE AMERICAN ANTI-TERRORIST TASK FORCE WHAT I HAVE JUST DONE.
YOU'VE GOT A TOUGH HIDE, STREGLOV...
FETCH ZEE CHOPPER AND WAIT IN IT FOR YOUR CALL.
...IT'LL SURVIVE A FEW HOURS OF BEING NAILED TO THE WALL. AND NOW THAT WE'RE ALL SET, FRIENDS--
--IT'S TIME TO NAIL THE SUCKER!
PLOOSH

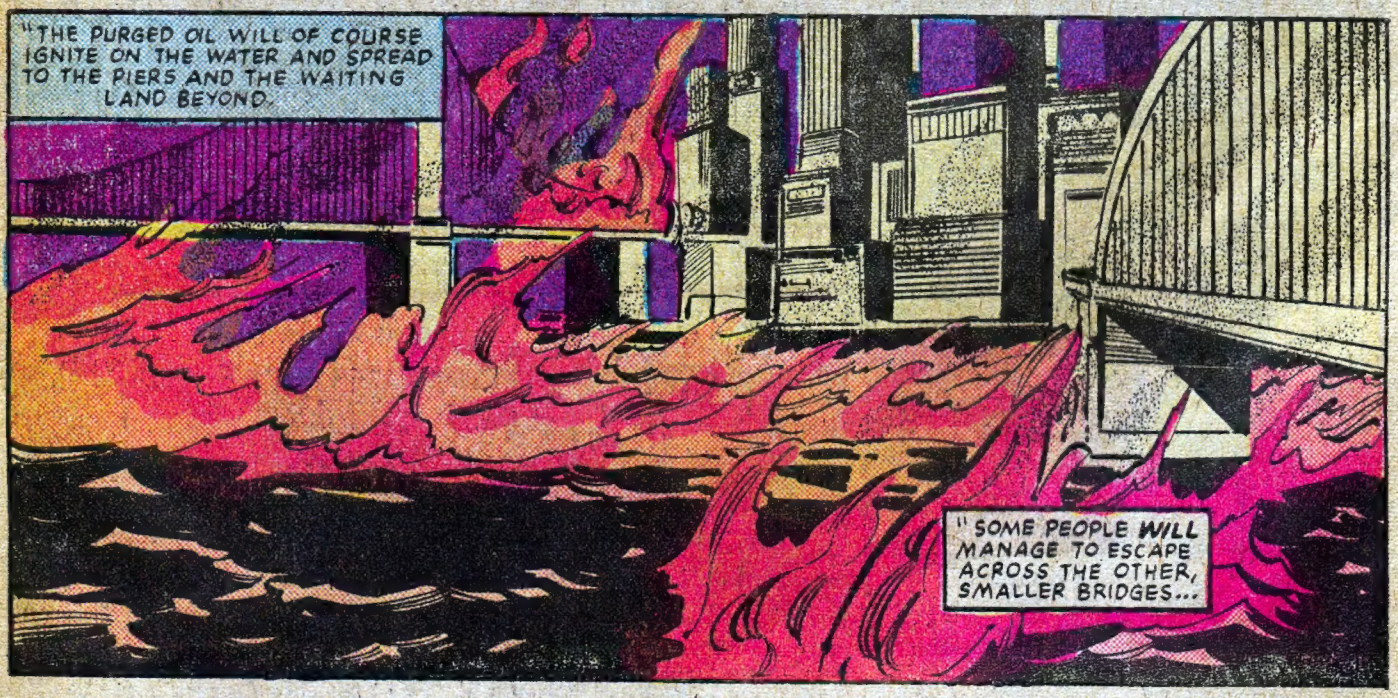

SURE COLD DOWN HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT GIVES ME THE CHILLS...
...CHILLS TO MATCH THE GOOSE-BUMPS I GOT WHEN STREGLOV MENTIONED SPECTOR.
DIDN'T LIKE HIS TONE OF VOICE. ALMOST AS IF HE WAS EMBARASSED TO REFER TO SPECTOR AS A SEPARATE MAN.
GUESS I'D BETTER FACE THE GRIM POSSIBILITY--STREGLOV MAY BE CATCHING ON THAT SPECTOR AND I ARE ONE IN THE SAME MAN.
AH, HERE'S THE TANKER'S PURGE-VALVE, AND--
BINGO--RIGHT ON TIME. THEY JUST STARTED PURGING THE OIL...
OTHERWISE TRANSLATED AS PULLING THE TRIGGER ON THEIR BLACKMAIL PLAN.
TIME FOR MY TRUNCHEON TO TO BECOME A GRAPPLING HOOK...
...AND TIME FOR ME TO CLIMB ABOVE THE OIL LINE...
...USE THIS ACETYLENE TORCH TO BURN A HOLE IN THE HULL...
...AND PURGE THE RESULTING GAS BUILD-UP BEFORE IT REACHES THE POINT OF EXPLOSION.
OTHERWISE IT'S BYE-BYE TO THE BIG APPLE--WITH A BANG!

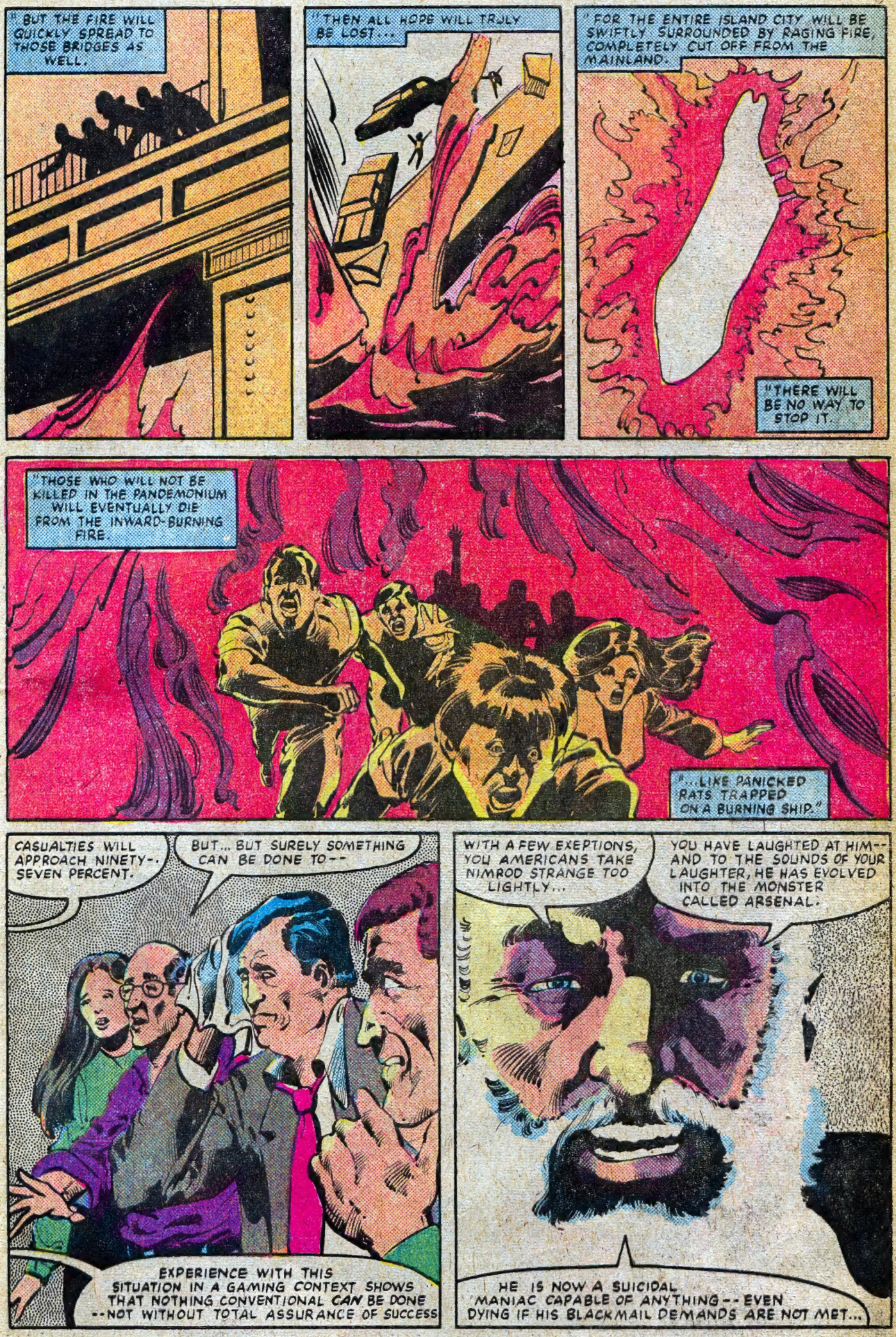

THE ANTI-TERRORIST COMMAND POST IN LOWER MANHATTAN...
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE, STREGLOV. WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM THE TERRORISTS--FROM THIS 'ARSENAL' HIMSELF--THAT THEY'VE PULLED THE TRIGGER... STARTED VENTING OIL FROM ALL FOUR TANKERS.
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE STREGLOV?
INDEED I DO, MR. BRENT.
I REALIZE IT BETTER THAN ANYONE IN THIS SMOKEY ROOM...
...WHICH IS WHY I'VE BEEN ASKED BY BOTH YOUR F.B.I. AND YOUR C.I.A. NOT TO MENTION YOUR PRESIDENT HIMSELF TO PRESIDE OVER THIS MEETING.
MY FREIND EBAN AND I, WITH THE HELP OF MARC SPECTOR, EFFECTIVELY CRUSHED THE ISLAND BASE OF NIMROD STRANGE--WHO NOW CALLS HIMSELF ARSENAL--AND CAPTURED MOST OF HIS THIRD WORLD ARMY. TELL THEM EBAN.
THE THIRD WORLD ARMY IS A COALITION OF EXTREME LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST TERRORISTS.
THEY ARE DEDICATED TO THE OVERTHROW OF ALL WORLD GOVERNMENT IN AN ORGY OF VIOLENT ANARCHY.
AND NOW, EVEN THOUGH THAT ARMY HAS BEEN CRUSHED, ARSENAL HIMSELF HAS ESCAPED WITH HIS BODYGUARDS. ALSO, SOME OF HIS AGENTS WERE NOT ON THE ISLAND WHEN WE CAPTURED IT.
SOME WERE RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK. AND THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HIJACKED THE FOUR TANKERS...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE FOUR CREWS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THAT LUNATIC ARSENAL CLAIMS HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN SUCH "INSIGNIFICANT HOSTAGES."
INDEED NOT, MR. BRENT. WHY SHOULD HE?--WHEN HE HOLDS THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF MANHATTEN HOSTAGE. INCLUDING ALL OF US HERE IN THIS ROOM
PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN, STREGLOV. WE'VE BEEN TOLD THIS IS SERIOUS, BUT HOLDING THE WHOLE CITY HOSTAGE--?
I WILL GET TO THAT, MR. BRENT. BUT FIRST...


HERE IS A PHOTO OF ARSENAL HIMSELF THAT WE FOUND ON THE ISLAND.
HIS REAL NAME, AS I MENTIONED, IS NIMROD STRANGE --AND HE IS PRESUMABLY QUITE MAD.
HIS COSTUME BRISTLES WITH WEAPONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO BECOME A ONE-MAN ARMY.
NOW, THE "MANHATTEN PLAN" WE DISCOVERED AFTER HIS ESCAPE IS BASED ON A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION CONCEIVED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THIS VERY TASK FORCE.
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE OTHERS, THE SITUATION WAS DESIGNED AS A GAME TO PREPARE ANTI-TERRORIST RESPONSES IN THE EVENT SUCH A SITUATION EVER REALLY CAME TO PASS.
THAT HAS NOW HAPPENED!
YOU MEAN WE'VE EFFECTIVELY GIVEN ARSENAL A BLUEPRINT FOR HOLDING THE CITY HOSTAGE?!
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I MEAN.
THESE FOUR MAJOR ACCESS POINTS FOR THE CITY--THE HOLLAND TUNNEL, LINCOLN TUNNEL, AND THE BROOKLYN AND GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGES--ARE WHERE THE FOUR TANKERS ARE ANCHORED.
ARSENAL HIMSELF IS ABOARD THE ONE UNDER THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE, CONTROLLING HIS MEN ABOARD THE OTHER THREE TANKERS VIA RADIO-PHONE.
THEY'VE ALREADY BEGUN PURGING THE OIL--AND AS THE OIL LEVELS DROP, OUR TROUBLES ESCALATE. AT THE LEVEL OF THE TOP DOTTED LINE, GASES START TO BUILD.
A CRITICAL POINT IS REACHED AT THE THIRD DOTTED LINE.
AND IF THE GASES ARE NOT VENTED BY THE TIME THE OIL SINKS TO THE BOTTOM SOLID LINE...

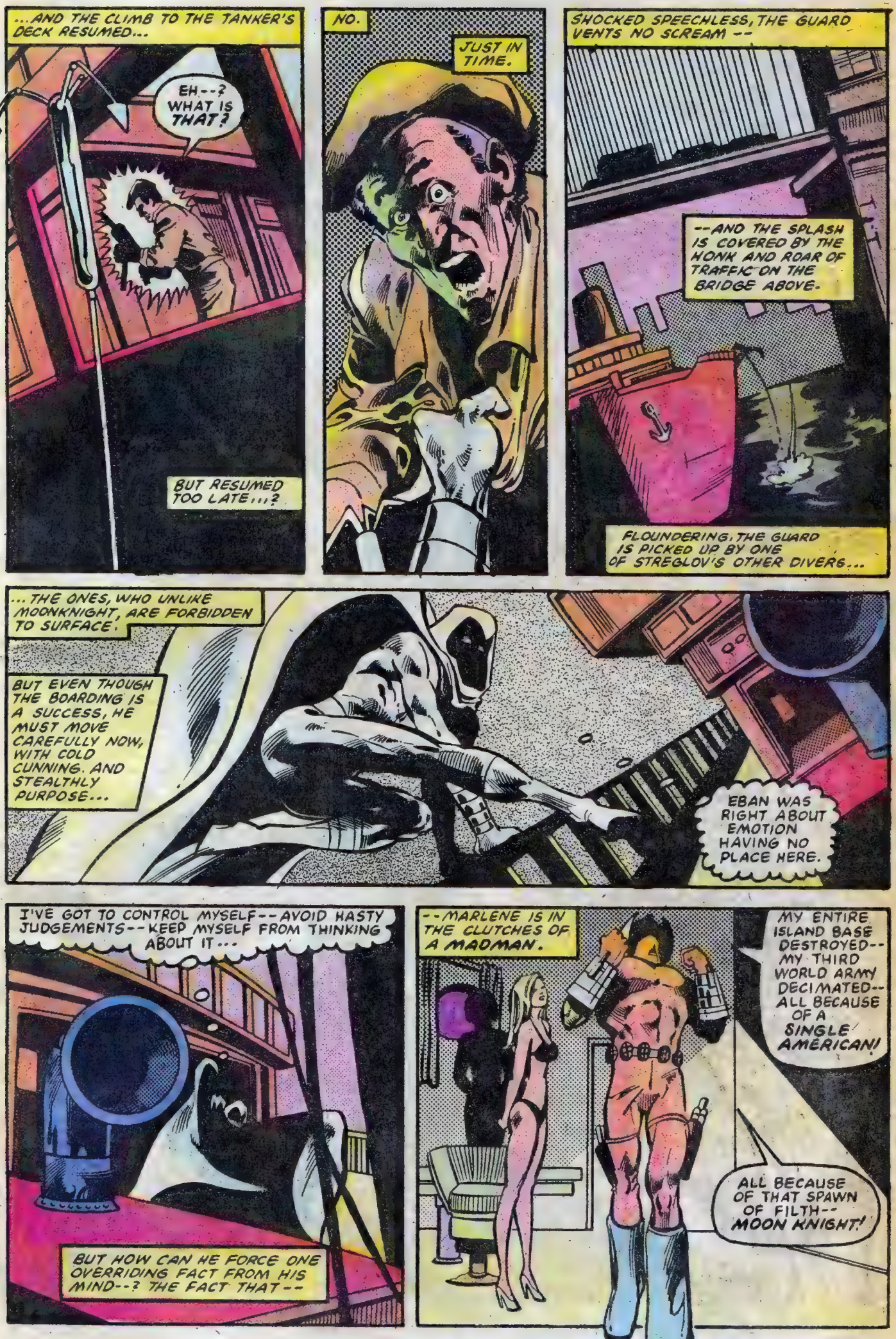

"... THEY WILL ATTAIN THE HYPER-EXPLOSIVE POINT.
"THEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE ALL UNDONE... AND NONE OF US WILL BE PACKING UP TO GO HOME.


"SO MUCH AS A SINGLE WARM SPARK WILL DETONATE EACH TANKER WITH THE FORCE OF SMALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.
"THE TWO TUNNELS AND TWO MAIN BRIDGES WILL BE IMMEDIATLY DESTROYED BY THE FIREBALLS.

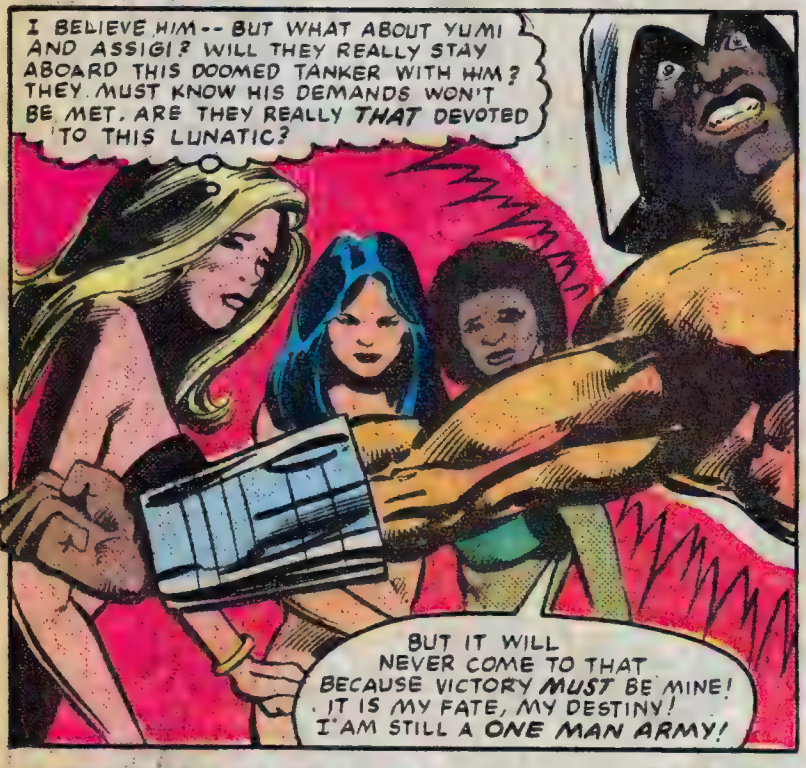

"THE PURGED OIL WILL OF COURSE IGNITE ON THE WATER AND SPREAD TO THE PIERS AND THE WAITING LAND BEYOND.
"SOME PEOPLE WILL MANAGE TO ESCAPE ACROSS THE OTHER, SMALLER BRIDGES...


"BUT THE FIRE WILL QUICKLY SPREAD TO THOSE BRIDGES AS WELL.
"THEN ALL HOPE WILL TRULY BE LOST...
"FOR THE ENTIRE ISLAND CITY WILL BE SWIFTLY SURROUNDED BY RAGING FIRE, COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE MAINLAND.
"THERE WILL BE NO WAY TO STOP IT.
"THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE KILLED IN THE PANDEMONIUM WILL EVENTUALLY DIE FROM THE INWARD-BURNING FIRE.
"...LIKE PANICKED RATS TRAPPED ON A BURNING SHIP."
CASUALTIES WILL APPROACH NINETY-SEVEN PERCENT.
BUT... BUT SURELY SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO--
EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SITUATION IN A GAMING CONTEXT SHOWS THAT NOTHING CONVENTIONAL CAN BE DONE --NOT WITHOUT TOTAL ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS
WITH A FEW EXEPTIONS, YOU AMERICANS TAKE NIMROD STRANGE TOO LIGHTLY...
YOU HAVE LAUGHTED AT HIM-- AND TO THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LAUGHTER, HE HAS EVOLVED INTO THE MONSTER CALLED ARSENAL.
HE IS NOW A SUICIDAL MANIAC CAPABLE OF ANYTHING-- EVEN DYING IF HIS BLACKMAIL DEMANDS ARE NOT MET...

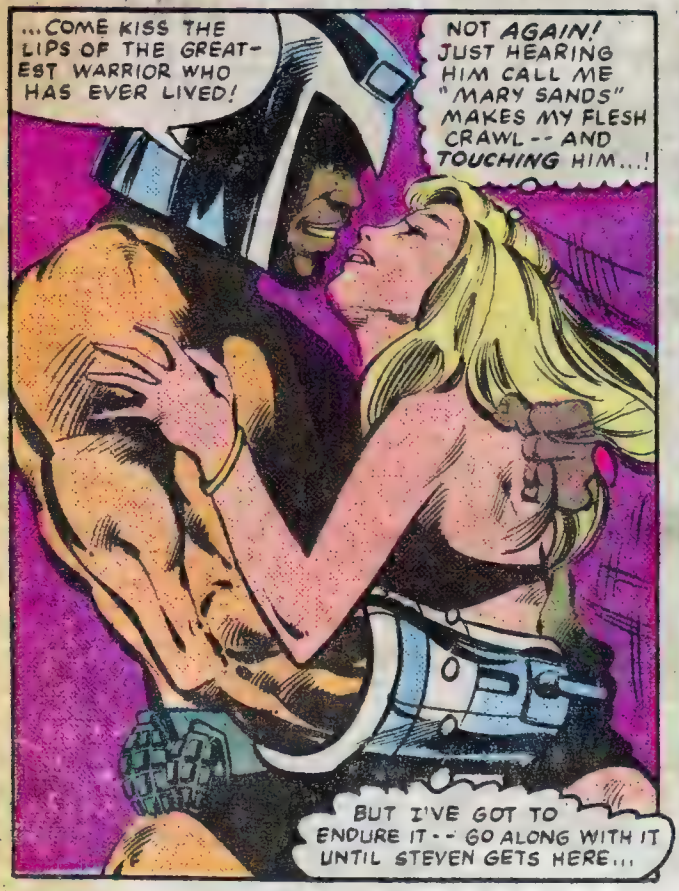
HE WILL DO ANYTHING -- SUFFER ANYTHING -- DESTROY ANYTHING -- FOR THE SAKE OF HIS INSANE CAUSE!
BUT YOU KNOW HIS DEMANDS CAN'T BE MET! THEY'RE PREPOSTEROUS -- THE TOTAL CAPITULATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT...!
I KNOW, WHICH IS WHY I'VE TAKEN IT UPON MYSELF TO ACT -- BY PLACING A MAN ABOARD ARSENAL'S TANKER.
YOU WHAT?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S INSANE, STREGLOV! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?! WHEN THE PRESIDENT HEARS OF THIS, YOUR CAREER WON'T BE WORTH A SWASTIKA IN JERUSALEM! YOUR POSITION IN THE MOSSAD --
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT CONTROL THE WORKINGS OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE. BUT EVEN SO, YOU ARE RIGHT -- I WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THE MOSSAD, PERHAPS FROM ISRAEL HERSELF --
-- SHOULD MY PLAN FAIL.
THUS GENTLEMEN, FOR ALL OUR SAKES, WE CAN ONLY PRAY IT SUCCEEDS.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE RISK HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN, AND THE FATE OF THIS CITY NOW LIES IN THE HANDS OF ONE MAN --
"-- A MAN NAMED MOON KNIGHT!"
HOPE I BURNED THROUGH THE RIGHT SPOT... BECAUSE IF THESE GASES AREN'T VENTED --
-- IT'LL ALL BE OVER IN A MATTER OF HOURS.
THE ACETYLENE TORCH IS ABANDONED.


...AND THE CLIMB TO THE TANKER'S DECK RESUMED...
EH--? WHAT IS THAT?
BUT RESUMED TOO LATE...?
NO.
JUST IN TIME.
SHOCKED SPEECHLESS, THE GUARD VENTS NO SCREAM --
--AND THE SPLASH IS COVERED BY THE HONK AND ROAR OF TRAFFIC ON THE BRIDGE ABOVE.
FLOUNDERING, THE GUARD IS PICKED UP BY ONE OF STREGLOV'S OTHER DIVERS...
...THE ONES, WHO UNLIKE MOONKNIGHT, ARE FORBIDDEN TO SURFACE.
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE BOARDING IS A SUCCESS, HE MUST MOVE CAREFULLY NOW, WITH COLD CUNNING. AND STEALTHLY PURPOSE...
EBAN WAS RIGHT ABOUT EMOTION HAVING NO PLACE HERE.
I'VE GOT TO CONTROL MYSELF--AVOID HASTY JUDGEMENTS--KEEP MYSELF FROM THINKING ABOUT IT...
BUT HOW CAN HE FORCE ONE OVERRIDING FACT FROM HIS MIND--? THE FACT THAT--
--MARLENE IS IN THE CLUTCHES OF A MADMAN.
MY ENTIRE ISLAND BASE DESTROYED--MY THIRD WORLD ARMY DECIMATED--ALL BECAUSE OF A SINGLE AMERICAN!
ALL BECAUSE OF THAT SPAWN OF FILTH--MOON KNIGHT!

BUT THE FINAL VICTORY IS NOT YET HIS! THE FINAL VICTORY SHALL BELONG TO ARSENAL-- TO ME!
STEVEN IS TAKING TOO LONG! HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE AS MOON KNIGHT BY NOW!
AND IF THEY DENY ME VICTORY, THEN MOON KNIGHT SHALL STILL BE CRUSHED --ALONG WITH EVERYONE IN THIS DECADENT CITY!


I BELIEVE HIM-- BUT WHAT ABOUT YUMI AND ASSIGI? WILL THEY REALLY STAY ABOARD THIS DOOMED TANKER WITH HIM? THEY MUST KNOW HIS DEMANDS WON'T BE MET. ARE THEY REALLY THAT DEVOTED TO THIS LUNATIC?
BUT IT WILL NEVER COME TO THAT BECAUSE VICTORY MUST BE MINE! IT IS MY FATE, MY DESTINY! I AM STILL A ONE MAN ARMY!

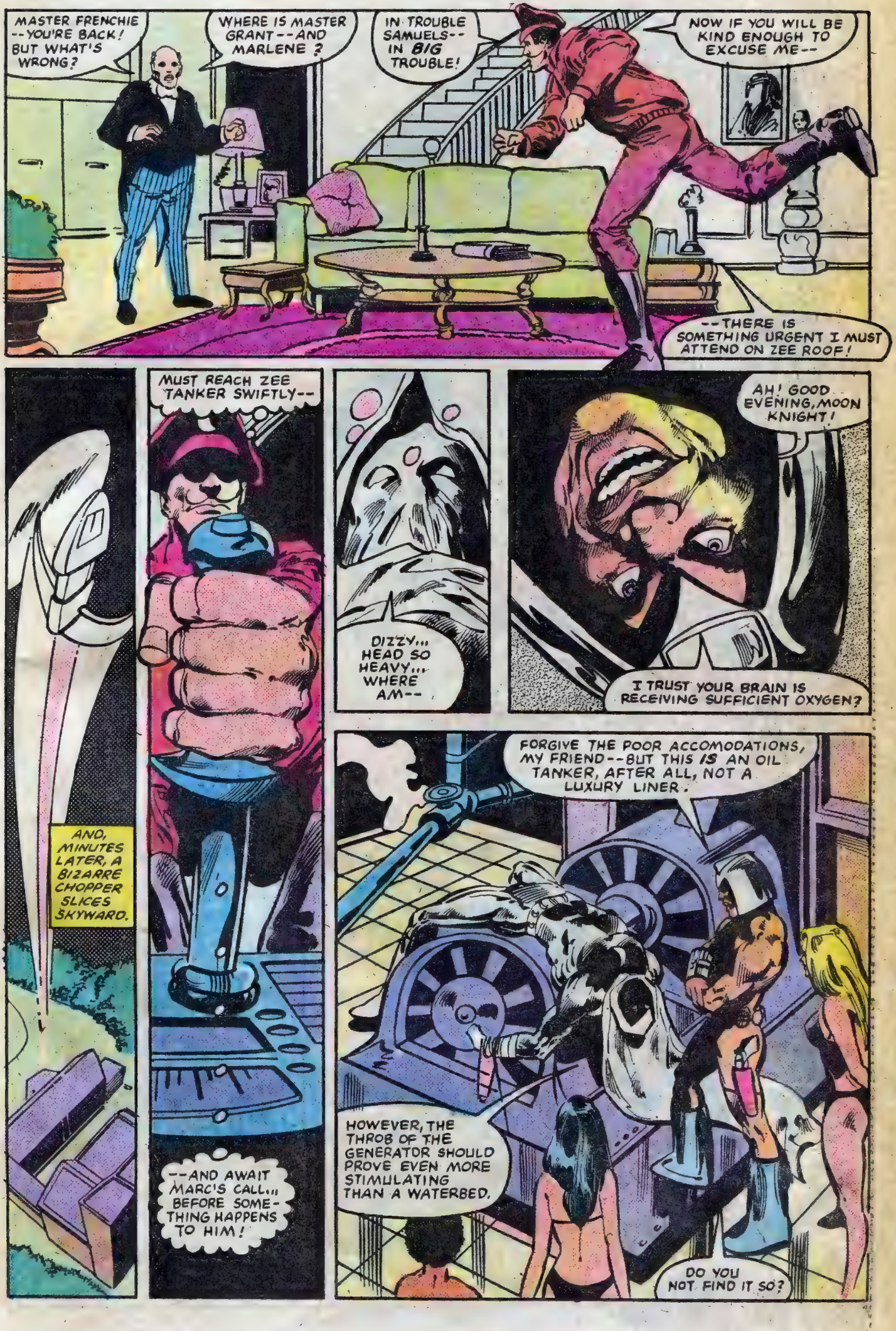
INDEED I AM THE GREATEST WARRIOR HISTORY HAS EVER SEEN-- AND WITH MY BEAUTIFUL BODYGUARDS AT MY SIDE NOTHING CAN STOP ME!
IS THAT NOT SO, MARY SANDS? COME HERE MY LOVELY NEW BODYGUARD...


...COME KISS THE LIPS OF THE GREATEST WARRIOR WHO HAS EVER LIVED!
NOT AGAIN! JUST HEARING HIM CALL ME "MARY SANDS" MAKES MY FLESH CRAWL -- AND TOUCHING HIM...!
BUT I'VE GOT TO ENDURE IT -- GO ALONG WITH IT UNTIL STEVEN GETS HERE...

THAT'S TWO.
CHUT!

AND NOW FOUR MORE...
BUT THEY'RE JUST LACKEYS... PAWNS. THE KEY IS ARSENAL HIMSELF -- AND NOT JUST BECAUSE HE'S HOLDING MARLENE.
HE CONTROLS THE OTHER THREE TANKERS -- STOP HIM, AND THE OTHERS ARE NULLIFIED.
IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE OF MARLENE.
IT'S NOT!
SWOKK
IT'S NOT!
HWOK
UUNGG
SHUMP
OOOFF
FRAK
WAK!
ARSENAL -- TROUBLE! MOON KNIGHT IS ABOARD THE SHIP!
WHAT?!
FINALLY! AND NONE TOO SOON!
WHO IS ABOARD--?!

ME, KILLER.
DEFEND YOUR MASTER.
STOP HIM!
NO! I--I CAN'T ATTACK STEVEN!
CAN'T HIT MARLENE!
AND THE MOMENT'S HESITATION...
KWUD
SWUT
IS THE PRECISE LIFESPAN OF DISASTER!
NO... CAN'T FAIL ALREADY...
STEVEN--!
...NOT NOW... NOT SO SOON... DIDN'T EVEN GET TO TAKE MY BEST SHOT...
...NOT NOWW..
WHUMP
GRANT MANSION.
JAKE LOCKELY'S CAB DRIVEN BY FRENCHIE, SHRIEKS TO A HALT.


MASTER FRENCHIE --YOU'RE BACK! BUT WHAT'S WRONG?
WHERE IS MASTER GRANT--AND MARLENE ?
IN TROUBLE SAMUELS-- IN BIG TROUBLE!
NOW IF YOU WILL BE KIND ENOUGH TO EXCUSE ME--
--THERE IS SOMETHING URGENT I MUST ATTEND ON ZEE ROOF!
AND, MINUTES LATER, A BIZARRE CHOPPER SLICES SKYWARD.
MUST REACH ZEE TANKER SWIFTLY--
--AND AWAIT MARC'S CALL... BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM!
DIZZY... HEAD SO HEAVY... WHERE AM--
AH! GOOD EVENING, MOON KNIGHT!
I TRUST YOUR BRAIN IS RECEIVING SUFFICIENT OXYGEN?
FORGIVE THE POOR ACCOMODATIONS, MY FRIEND--BUT THIS IS AN OIL TANKER, AFTER ALL, NOT A LUXURY LINER.
HOWEVER, THE THROB OF THE GENERATOR SHOULD PROVE EVEN MORE STIMULATING THAN A WATERBED.
DO YOU NOT FIND IT SO?

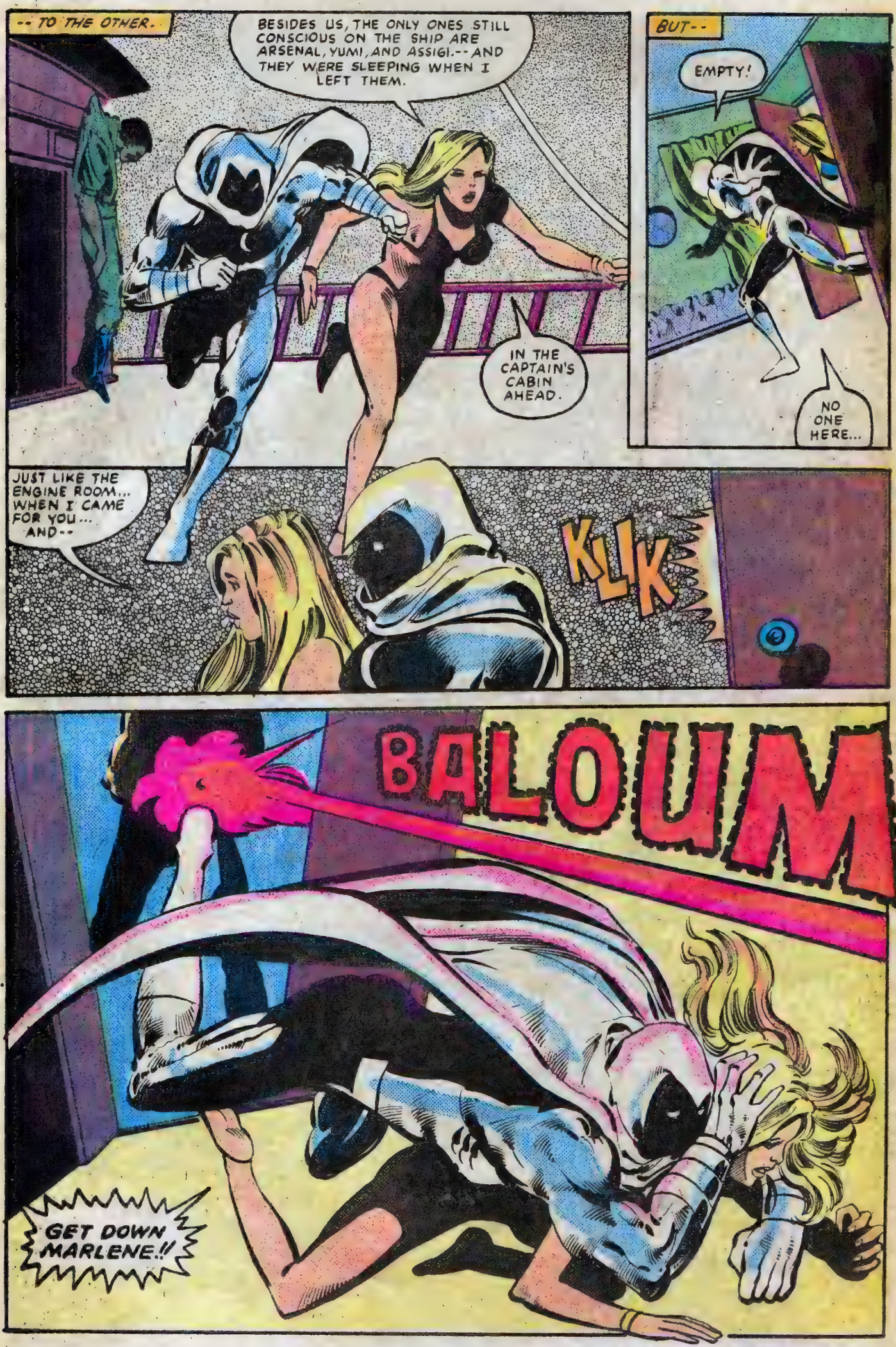
AH. YOU ARE TOO WEARY TO REPLY.
BUT NEVER FEAR. YOU MAY REST NOW THAT I HAVE REMOVED YOUR WEAPONS.
AND NOW, TO INCREASE YOUR COMFORT--
IT'S TIME TO REMOVE SOMETHING ELSE...
...YOUR MASK.
NO MARLENE, DON'T TRY IT-- YOU CAN'T TAKE ALL THREE OF THEM THE FACE ISN'T IMPORTANT. LET HIM SEE IT.
WHETHER E.S.P. OR IMPLORING EYES, THE MESSAGE REACHES HER...
...AND SIMPLY WATCHES AS HER MAN IS UN-MASKED.
SPECTOR?!?
FOR AN INSTANT THERE IS STUNNED SILENCE...
...THEN UPROARIOUS LAUGHTER.
MY TWO NEMESES-- MOON KNIGHT AND MARC SPECTOR--AND THEY TURN OUT TO BE THE SAME MAN! I HAVE CAPTURED BOTH OF THEM IN ONE BUNDLE OF HELPLESS FLESH!
ONLY AN HOUR REMAINS; MY TWO-FACED FOE. IF MY DEMANDS AREN'T MET BY THEN, I SHALL IGNITE THE BUILDUP OF GASES...
AND YOU SHALL BE THE VERY FIRST TO FEEL THE EXPLOSION. THINK ABOUT THAT FOR THE NEXT HOUR, MR. MOON KNIGHT... MR. SPECTOR.
THINK ABOUT WHAT IT FEELS LIKE--
TO BE TRAPPED AT THE HEART OF AN EXPLOSION OF NUCLEAR MAGNITUDE.
NOW COME, MY LOVELIES... THERE IS STILL SOME TIME FOR FUN.
SLAMM
WHAT NOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE? SO TIGHT...I CAN BARELY SQUIRM.

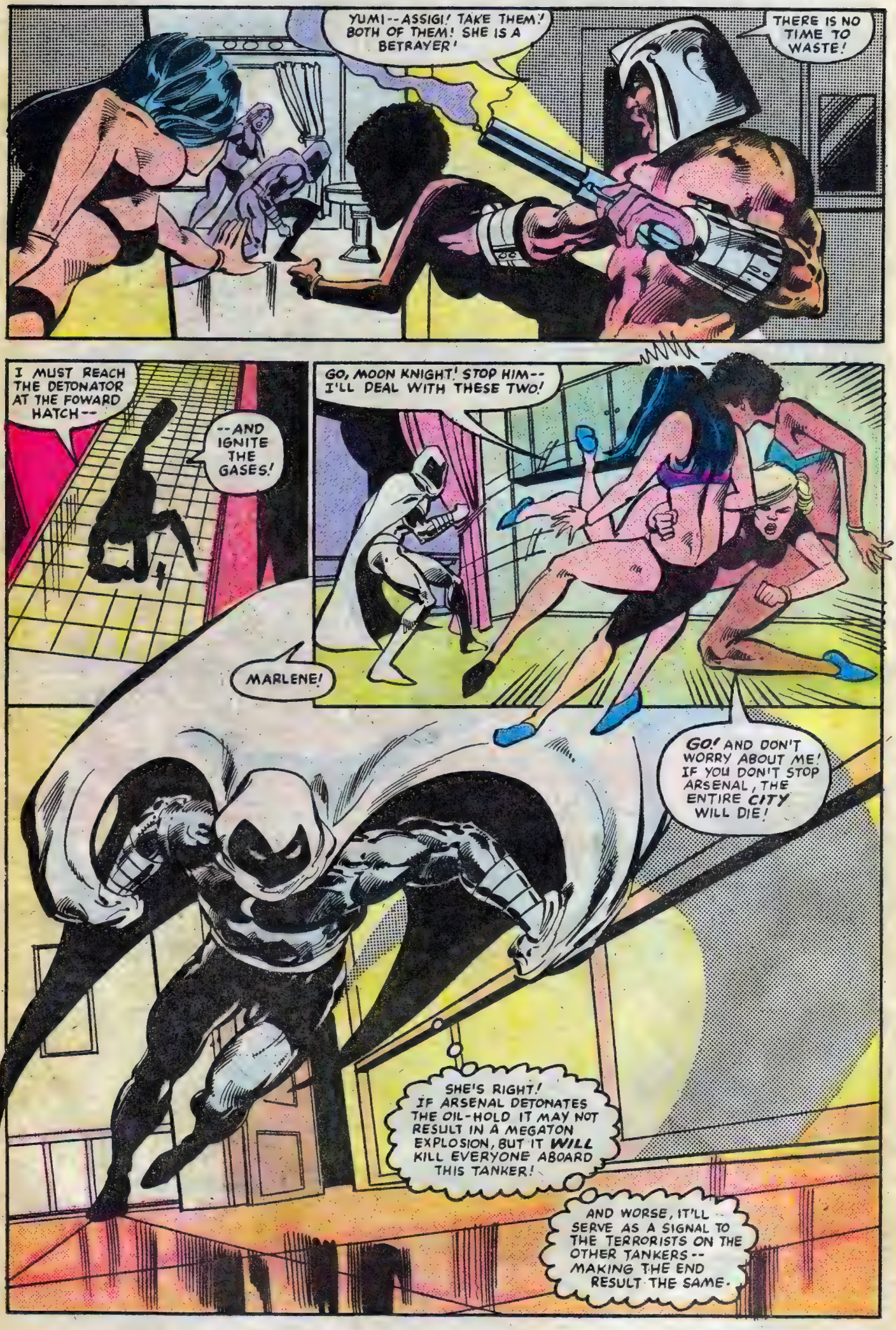
WAIT A MINUTE! THE CRESCENT DARTS ON MY BELT--!
ARSENAL THOUGHT THEY WERE MERE DECORATION-- DIDN'T REMOVE THEM...
IF I CAN SQUIRM AGAINST THESE RIVETS-- AND POP ONE OFF ITS BELT-PEG...
...AND CATCH IT--
PAP
NO-- MISSED!
GOT TO TRY AGAIN...
PAP
HISSSSSS
THAT ONE ACTUALLY HIT MY HAND--
-- BOUNCED OUT, BLAST IT!
NO GOOD, THEY KEEP FLYING WIDE...
SOONER OR LATER I'M GONNA RUN OUT OF DARTS...
PAP
TINK
ASHORE...
YES, MR. PRESIDENT, YES, I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, SIR.
YOUR MAN MOON-KNIGHT HAS 15 MINUTES, THEN OUR COMMANDO TEAM STRIKES!
I EXPECTED AS MUCH.
BUT COMMANDO TEAMS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE AS LONG AS ARSENAL CAN GIVE THE SIGNAL TO THE OTHER THREE TANKERS.
HAVE YOU AN ALTERNITIVE?
NO. IT STILL HINGES ON ONE MAN...

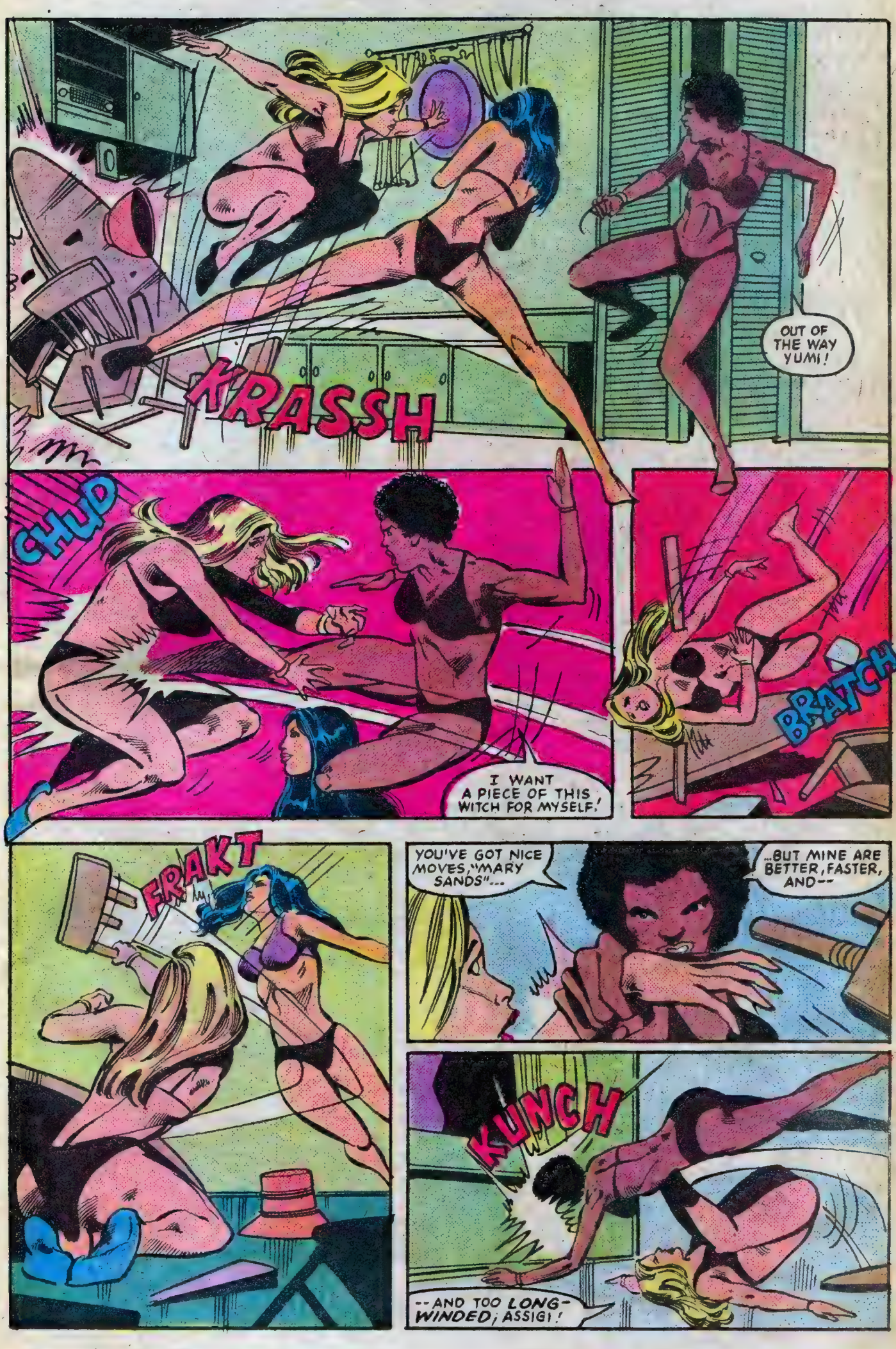
"... ON MOON KNIGHT."
DAP
TANK
AAARRR!
AND IN THE ISLAND CITY OF MANHATTEN DESPITE INFLATION, CRIME, THE WEATHER AND BAD REVIEWS, THE NIGHT LIFE NEVER DIES...
... NOT YET, ANYWAY.
THE CROWDS ARE STILL THICK AND BOISTEROUS, NONE OF THEM AWARE THAT THE LIFE OF THEIR CITY DEPENDS ON ONE MAN...
... ONE MAN -- CATCHING ONE THIN PIECE OF METAL IN HIS STRAINING FINGERTIPS...
THIS IS THE LAST DART I CAN REACH! IF I MISS THIS ONE --
POP
PLIP

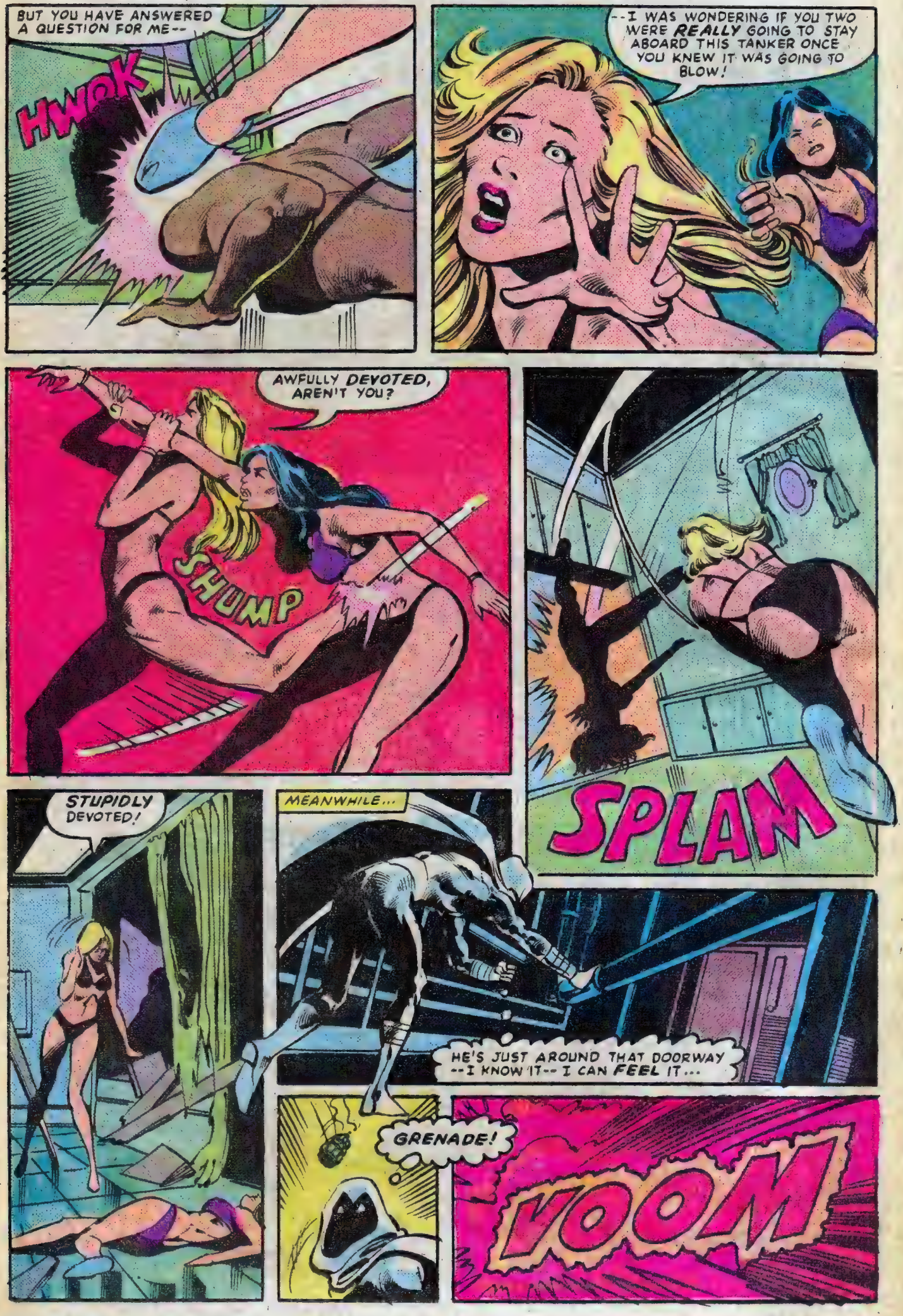
AND HIS FACE FINALLY SAGS IN RELIEF.
GOT IT... I GOT IT, GOT IT, GOT IT!
BUT NOW BEGINS THE HARD PART!
RINCH RINCH
HISSSSSS
RINCH RINCH
ELSEWHERE ON THE TANKER...
THEY'VE FINALLY DOZED OFF, BUT THERE WON'T BE MUCH TIME TO SPARE -- GOT TO SLIP AWAY AND FREE STEVEN... NOW.
UHN? WHERE ARE YOU GOING MARY?
NO! NOT NOW--!
OH... UH, JUST OUT FOR SOME FRESH AIR, ASSIGI.
I WON'T BE LONG.
M-HM.
WAKE UP, NIMROD WAKE UP!

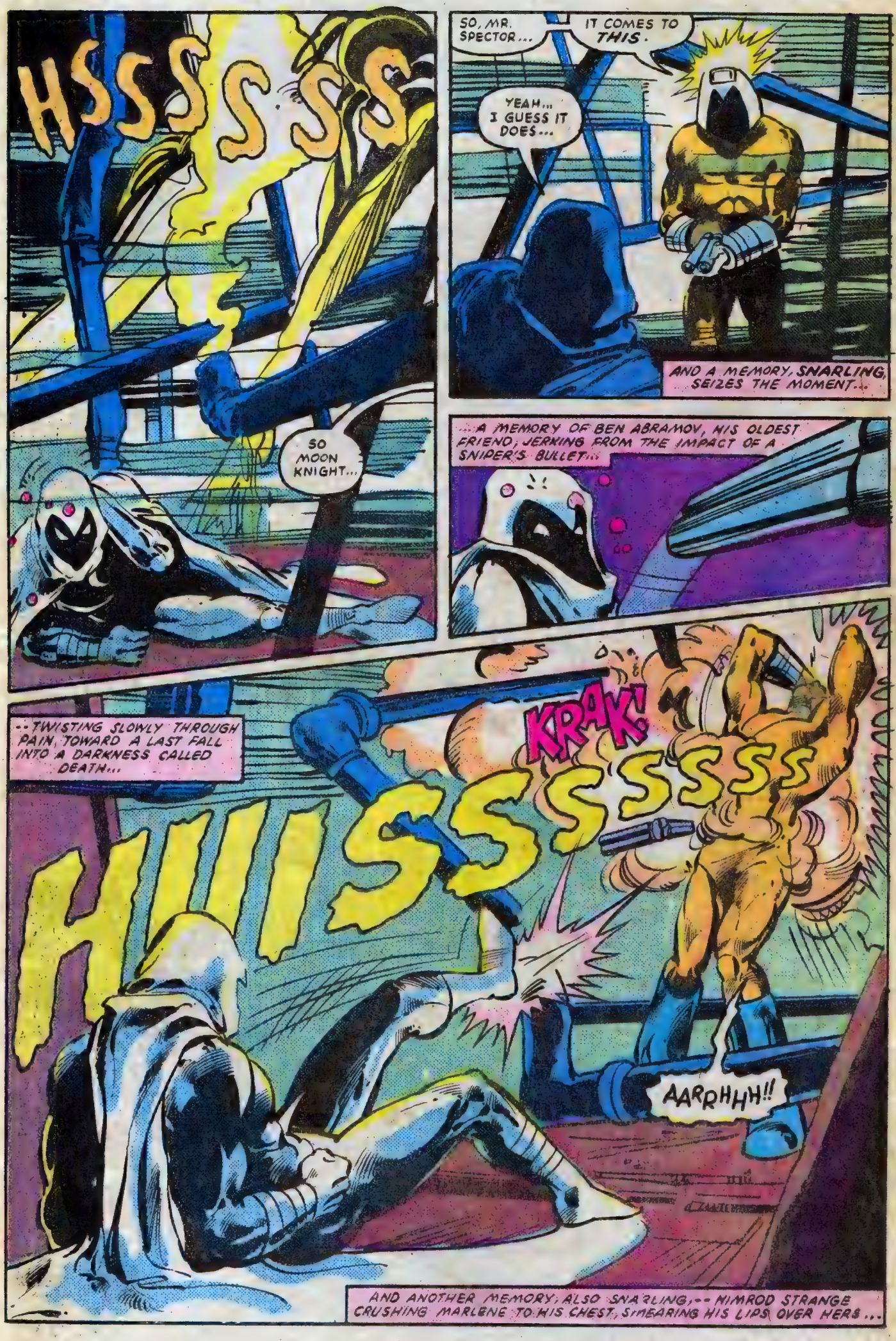
THE ENGINE ROOM...
EMPTY-- HE'S GONE! DID I COME TOO LATE?! DID ONE OF THE OTHER TERRORISTS TAKE HIM FOR SPORT?! IS HE--
UP HERE.
STEVEN!
WHEN I HEARD YOUR FOOT-STEPS, I COULDN'T BE SURE WHO IT'D BE...
OH, STEVEN YOU SCARED ME!
YEAH-- RELIEF IS ONE OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEMS INVENTIONS, AIN'T IT?
BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO PARTAKE OF IT NOW LADY. FIRST THING IS TO TAKE OUT THE REST OF THE GUARDS, THEN ARSENAL HIMSELF!
AND WE'VE ONLY GOT TEN MINUTES TO DO IT!
AND SO THEY MAKE THEIR MOVES--
--SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, BRUTALLY--
--WORKING THEIR DESPERATE WAY FROM ONE END OF THE TANKER--


-- TO THE OTHER.
BESIDES US, THE ONLY ONES STILL CONSCIOUS ON THE SHIP ARE ARSENAL, YUMI, AND ASSIGI.-- AND THEY WERE SLEEPING WHEN I LEFT THEM.
IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN AHEAD.
BUT--
EMPTY!
NO ONE HERE...
JUST LIKE THE ENGINE ROOM... WHEN I CAME FOR YOU... AND--
KLIK
BALOUM
GET DOWN MARLENE!!


YUMI--ASSIGI! TAKE THEM! BOTH OF THEM! SHE IS A BETRAYER!
THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE!
I MUST REACH THE DETONATOR AT THE FOWARD HATCH--
--AND IGNITE THE GASES!
GO, MOON KNIGHT! STOP HIM-- I'LL DEAL WITH THESE TWO!
MARLENE!
GO! AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! IF YOU DON'T STOP ARSENAL, THE ENTIRE CITY WILL DIE!
SHE'S RIGHT! IF ARSENAL DETONATES THE OIL-HOLD IT MAY NOT RESULT IN A MEGATON EXPLOSION, BUT IT WILL KILL EVERYONE ABOARD THIS TANKER!
AND WORSE, IT'LL SERVE AS A SIGNAL TO THE TERRORISTS ON THE OTHER TANKERS-- MAKING THE END RESULT THE SAME.


KRASSH
OUT OF THE WAY YUMI!
CHUD
I WANT A PIECE OF THIS WITCH FOR MYSELF!
BRATCH
FRAKT
YOU'VE GOT NICE MOVES, "MARY SANDS"...
...BUT MINE ARE BETTER, FASTER, AND--
KUNCH
--AND TOO LONG-WINDED, ASSIG!


BUT YOU HAVE ANSWERED A QUESTION FOR ME--
HWOK
--I WAS WONDERING IF YOU TWO WERE REALLY GOING TO STAY ABOARD THIS TANKER ONCE YOU KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BLOW!
AWFULLY DEVOTED, AREN'T YOU?
SHUMP
SPLAM
STUPIDLY DEVOTED!
MEANWHILE...
HE'S JUST AROUND THAT DOORWAY --I KNOW IT-- I CAN FEEL IT...
GRENADE!
VOOM

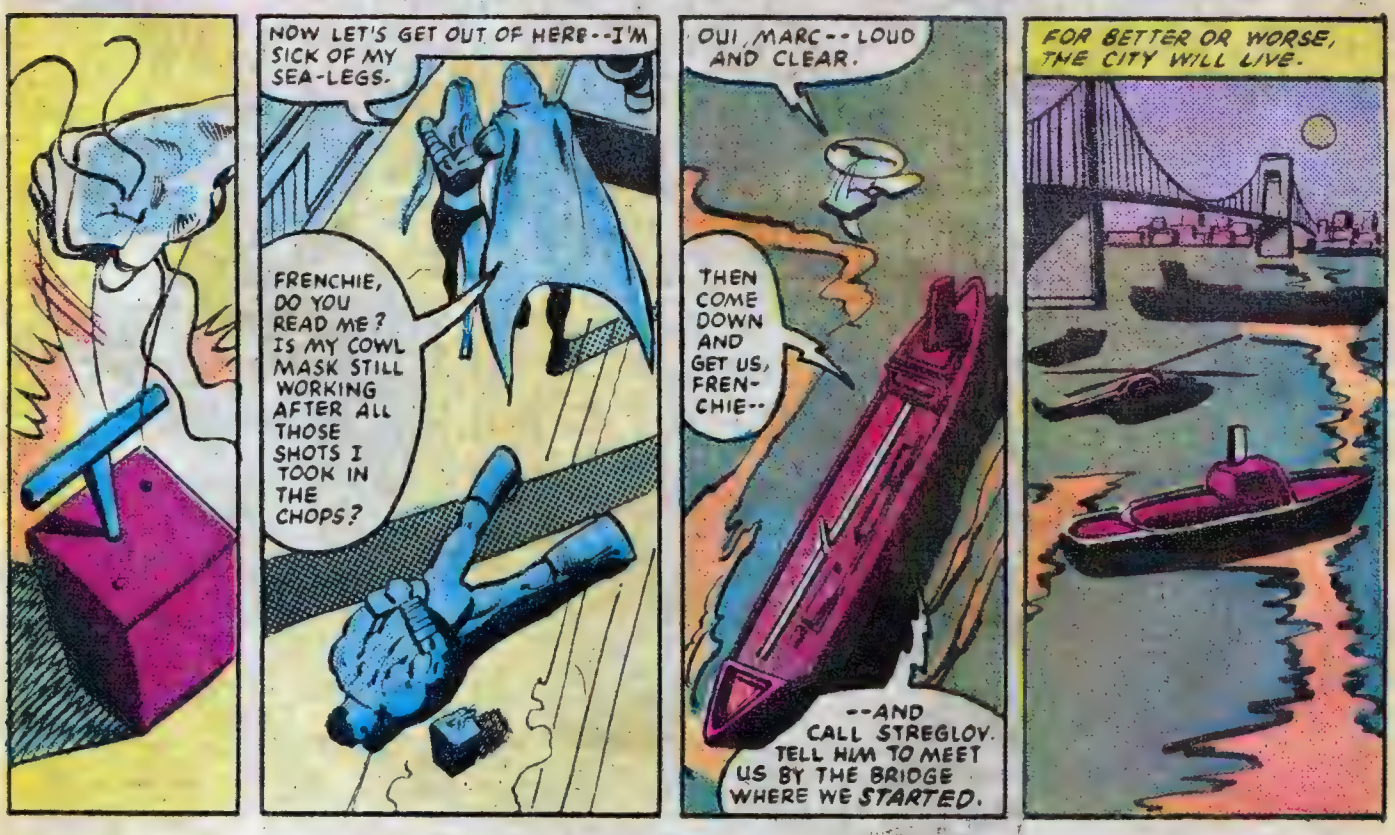

HSSSSSS
SO MOON KNIGHT...
SO, MR. SPECTOR...
IT COMES TO THIS.
YEAH... I GUESS IT DOES...
AND A MEMORY, SNARLING, SEIZES THE MOMENT...
...A MEMORY OF BEN ABRAMOV, HIS OLDEST FRIEND, JERKING FROM THE IMPACT OF A SNIPER'S BULLET...
--TWISTING SLOWLY THROUGH PAIN, TOWARD A LAST FALL INTO A DARKNESS CALLED DEATH...
KRAK!
HIISSSSSSS
AARHHH!!
AND ANOTHER MEMORY; ALSO SNARLING,-- NIMROD STRANGE CRUSHING MARLENE TO HIS CHEST, SMEARING HIS LIPS OVER HERS...

YOU'VE KILLED MY FRIEND AND SOILED MY WOMAN, MADMAN!
KA-THOK
KUNK
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FALL!
SWAKT
BUT...
THAK
KAK-AK AK
BYEOW
CHEW
ZWANG

BLAOW
AK-AK
BLAM
BRAM
HE'S GIVEN UP ON ME-- GOING FOR THE DETONATOR!
GOT TO STOP HIM!
WOK
KRAK
THE DETONA-TOR!
GOT TO REACH IT!
NO!
CAN'T LET HIM DO IT... NO MATTER WHAT... THE... COST...
IF ONLY... STILL HAD... MY... WEAPONS...

GOT...TO... STOP...HIM...
GOT...TO... REACH... IT...
LAST CRESCENT-DART... GOT...TO... SLICE... WIRE...
MISSED! AND HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT!
NO...
NOOO!!
A SINGLE PUNCH, WHEN NO MORE WERE POSSIBLE.
IT DROPS AN ARMY.

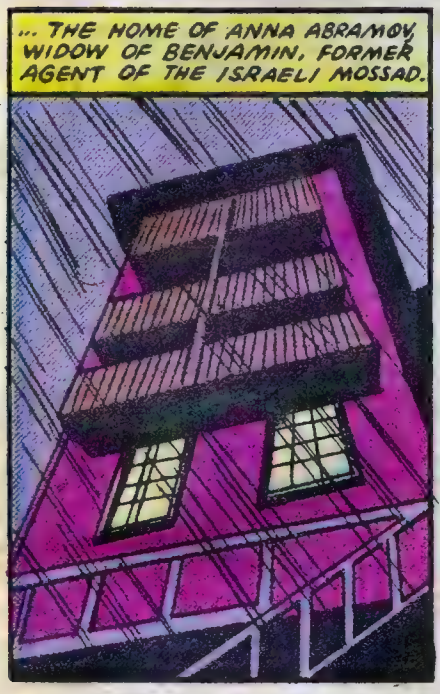
AND BEFORE ARSENAL CAN SLUMP ONTO THE PLUNGER--
GOT HIM!
YEAH--EMOTION HAS NO PLACE IN AN OPERATION LIKE THIS...
BUT TELL THAT TO EMOTION.
MARLENE...?
YES, STEVEN.
MARLENE...I... THAT LAST GESTURE ...IT WAS STUPID.
I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
HUSH, STEVEN. IF SUCH A GESTURE CAN EVER BE EARNED, YOU DID TONIGHT.
NOW TIE HIM UP AND DESTROY THE DETONATOR.

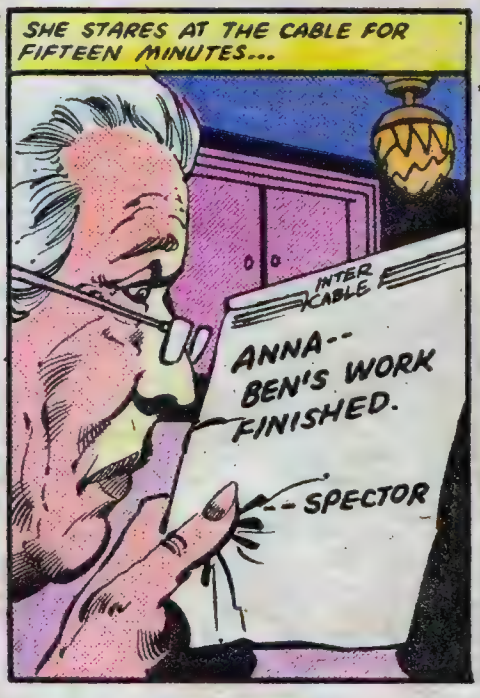

NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE--I'M SICK OF MY SEA-LEGS.
FRENCHIE, DO YOU READ ME? IS MY COWL MASK STILL WORKING AFTER ALL THOSE SHOTS I TOOK IN THE CHOPS?
OUI, MARC--LOUD AND CLEAR.
THEN COME DOWN AND GET US, FRENCHIE--
--AND CALL STREGLOV. TELL HIM TO MEET US BY THE BRIDGE WHERE WE STARTED.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE CITY WILL LIVE.

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT EMOTION, STREGLOV-- BUT I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
AND I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU BEING THE ONLY MAN FOR THE JOB, MOON KNIGHT.
BY THE WAY, I TRUST MR. SPECTOR PULLED THROUGH EQUALLY WELL?
THE SLY FOX SUSPECTS, ALL RIGHT-- AND SINCE ARSENAL WILL SPILL THE BEANS ONCE HE'S IN CUSTODY ANYWAY, GUESS I CAN KISS MY SECRET IDENTITY GOODBYE...
"YOU MAY AS WELL KNOW, STREGLOV..."
"YES, MOON KNIGHT?"
"SPECTOR AND I...
"WE...
"WELL, WE'RE--"
VOOOOM
"WHAT THE?! THEN ARSENAL REALLY WAS MAD ENOUGH TO DO IT!"
"GOOD THING WE ALREADY TOOK THE OTHER TANKERS, AND YOU VENTED THE GAS ON THAT ONE SO IT JUST MAKES A MESS ON THE WATER..."
AND KILLED EVERYONE ON BOARD. BUT YOU WERE SAYING?
OH, NOTHING. JUST THAT SPECTOR AND I ARE A GOOD TEAM. HE DOES THE UNDERCOVER WORK AND I'M THE VISIBLE ONE UP FRONT.
M-HM.
YOU DIDN'T ARREST HIM, MY FRIEND?
DON'T RUB IT IN, STREGLOV.
IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING, YOUR PRESIDENT GOING INTO PRISON TO PIN THE MEDAL ON HIM AND ALL...

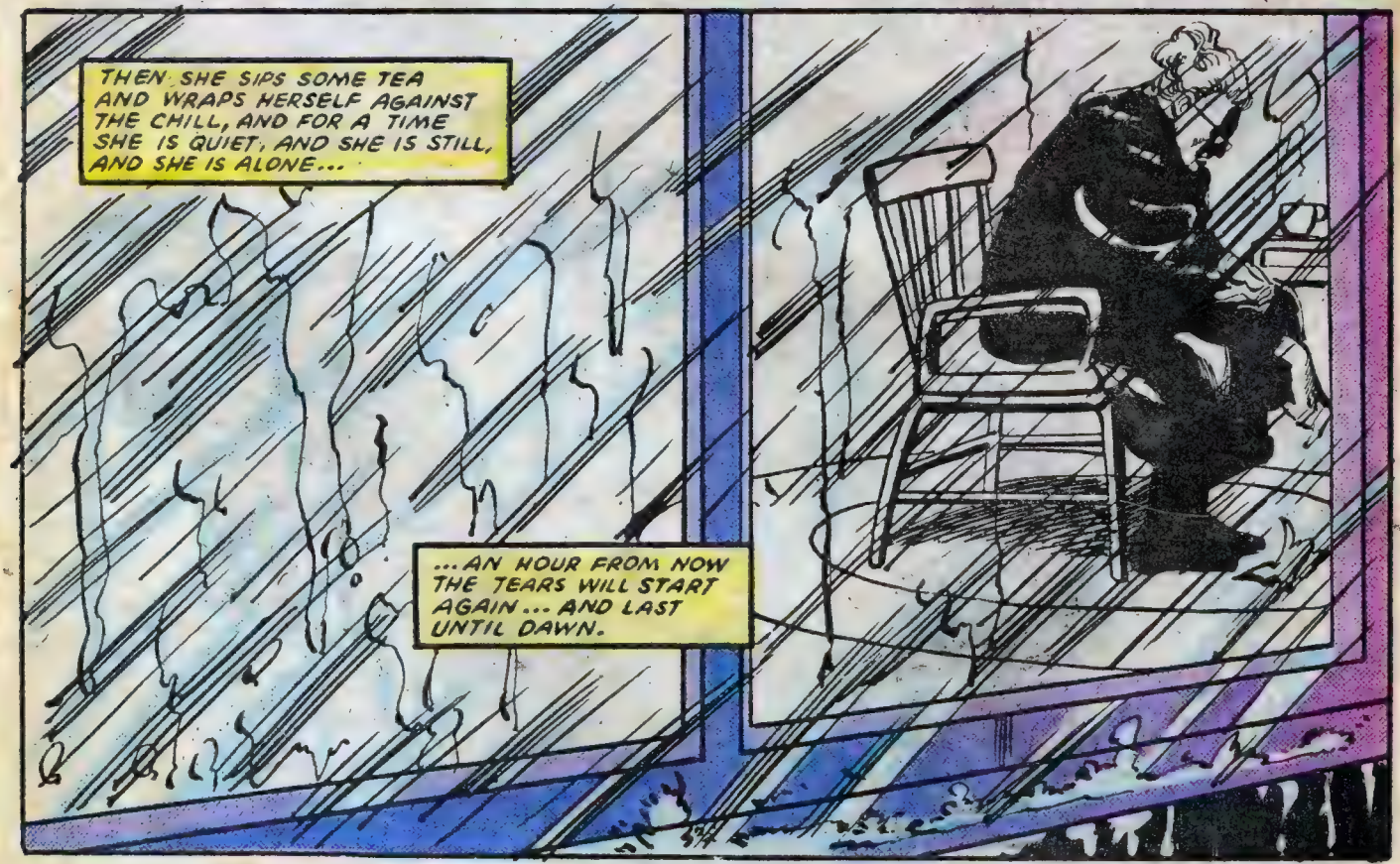
EPILOGUE:

JERUSALEM...


... THE HOME OF ANNA ABRAMOV, WIDOW OF BENJAMIN, FORMER AGENT OF THE ISRAELI MOSSAD.


SHE STARES AT THE CABLE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES...
INTER CABLE
ANNA-- BEN'S WORK FINISHED.
--SPECTOR

... THEN CRUMPLES AND WEEPS SILENTLY.


THEN SHE SIPS SOME TEA AND WRAPS HERSELF AGAINST THE CHILL, AND FOR A TIME SHE IS QUIET, AND SHE IS STILL, AND SHE IS ALONE...
...AN HOUR FROM NOW THE TEARS WILL START AGAIN... AND LAST UNTIL DAWN.

KNIGHT MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug and Bill:

Here's my verdict on the first three "new format" direct-sales-only issues of MOON KNIGHT:

Issue #15—excellent! What a way to start the new format. The art was excellent, and to go with the terrific art was a great story. I hope Flint becomes a regular.

Issue #16—a pretty good plot and excellent art. The Master Sniper was an exciting and unpredictable character who reminded me of a super-villain, though not as far-fetched as one having super-powers. I hope we see more villains in that category. Keep up the good work! By the way, I loved the black-and-white front pages of issues #15 and #17. Thanks.

Craig Townsend
B.C., Canada

Dear Marvel,

MOON KNIGHT #'s 15 and 16 had everything you need in a comic: great stories. Moon Knight is a great character for stories of crime and drugs. He's also good in super-hero team-ups. I'd like to see more villains for him to go up against—maybe Doctor Doom or even Morbius. How about a Moon Knight fan club—or a Moon Knight Annual? Think about it.

Kenneth Watkins
64 Bentley Street
Mansfield, OH 44902

We're thinking, Ken, we're thinking. The fan club idea is, at present, unlikely—although, as you know, absolutely nothing is ever *impossible* at mighty Marvel. As for a MOON KNIGHT ANNUAL...well, that depends on the reception fandom accords the MOON KNIGHT book, itself—and right now, it's a little too early to tell. We're always willing to experiment here at the original House of Ideas, and you can be sure that we'll take your wishes into account when the time comes. So watch these pages—you never know when we'll spring the next surprise on you!

Dear gang:

I've sat back for sixteen straight issues, and now it's time for my comments. First, the concept is wonderful. Moon Knight is definitely a hero for the common man, and has been needed for quite a while. Next, the art is fantastic. Sienkiewicz has a distinctive style—part realistic, part surrealistic. Also, your cover art is what makes each issue, especially #'s 8 and 15.

Next, character development: fine, so far. Although in the beginning, some badly needed past history on Marc Spector was omitted, with the new format you seem to be making it up quite nicely. Somewhere along the line, I'd like to see Marlene and/or Frenchie on solo adventures. It would be interesting to see how they handle themselves.

As for plots and scripting: very good, though sometimes a bit strange. However, that keeps it interesting. I (and, probably, a lot of other people) wouldn't mind a few more multi-issue adventures. Single ish stories are fine, but sometimes it's nice to let things stretch out and breathe.

In a previous *Knight Mail*, someone mentioned giving Moon Knight a yacht, as opposed to a mansion. I like the idea, but keep the mansion, too. Otherwise, if the yacht was sunk, he'd have nowhere to retreat. In closing, how about a MOON KNIGHT ANNUAL? And I've one question on comics in general: how far in advance is any given issue planned? Does it depend on popularity of a title, or is it pretty much standardized?

Doug Richardson
(No address given.)

One thing's for sure, Doug—nothing at Marvel is ever standardized! So when it comes to the method of producing our monthly masterpieces, we never seem to do it quite the same twice. Mostly, we work months in advance, attempting to stave off the ever-dreaded Deadline Doom. And, however many times we do it, one thing's certain: the challenge of producing remains, as does the satisfaction of holding the finished product in our hot little hands, knowing appreciative folks like yourself will soon be doing likewise. And that, as they say, is the whole truth and nothing but.

Dear Mr. Moench:

On the subject of MOON KNIGHT #17 ("Master Sniper's Legacy"), I thought it was fabulous. Master Sniper was an excellent villain. I also thought the story was well-written. I like the Marc Spector stories from the last two issues, too. And the cover of the book was spectacular. One more thing I like is that you have changed the price and format to 75¢ without any interior advertisements.

James Michael Jackson, Jr.
820 Boynton Avenue
Bronx, NY 10473

But tell us, James—was there anything you *liked* about the issue?

Dear Doug, Denny, and Bill,

First off, let me say that this bold experiment Marvel is trying with MOON KNIGHT, MICRONAUTS, and KA-ZAR is fantastic, and I shall continue to give it my enthusiastic support always.

The third direct-sale issue of MOON KNIGHT was a multi-portional feast filled with Bondesque action, mystery, intrigue, murder, and a brand new bizarre baddie. The featured return of Marc Spector was my favorite aspect of this modern-day masterpiece, mainly because I have a weak-spot for moral-less mercenaries. (I'd love to see a team-up between Marvel's two greatest mercenaries, Elektra and Spector, but I won't hold my breath waiting). Spector is MK's only true identity. Everyone else—Grant, Lockley, and Moon Knight, are all false lives led and created by Marc Spector. He may be millionaire, cabbie and superhero, but in truth, they're only characters from a deadly hunter's mind. Spector's play acting is the book's chief charm, thus this comic benefits from a spookiness not even Moon Knight himself can deliver. Jake, Steven, and Moon Knight can be seen practically every issue, so I'm gratified that Marc is given his chance in the limelight every now and then (even though that Moony guy still popped up). Spector tales always seem more exciting than any other MK story and this one was the best yet. "Master Sniper's Legacy" is the kind of spy thriller that has made MASTER OF KUNG FU one of my most treasured series since #29 of that mag. Doug Moench, comics' master of espionage and other spy stuff scored another homerun. Nimrod Strange, Master Sniper, and the Slayers Elite appear to be the most realistic terrorist band in comics. Master Sniper was a great nemesis for Spector, but he'd make an even greater adversary for that other master, Shang-Chi. Like all of the Asian's foes, Sniper's a normal man with a gimmick. Skullcrusher, Razor-Fist, Pavane, Tiger-Claw, War-Yore, and Agent Syn all fit into that category, but each manages to be novel in their own way. This is all due to you, Doug, your stories with Spector and Chi would do Ian Fleming proud. Any chance for a team-up between the Avenger of the Moon God and the Son of Fu Manchu in the near future?

Bill's art was its usual excellent self again, but it looks finer when it's self-inked. Mitchell's embellishments were good, but why settle for good when you can achieve perfection?

All in all, a darn good issue of Moon Knight—with one slightly hysterical imperfection: on page five, panel two, you printed in place of Nimrod the word Hugo...right next to the name Strange! Now why the name of your competitor's dark knight's golden-age foe is in this comic, only Eternity knows. But I forgive you, because I had a really good, long laugh from it. Perhaps you should get the all-seeing Watcher to proofread from now on.

Stu Krull
28 Kettle Creek Rd.
Freehold, NJ 07728

Would that we could, Stu—since Marvel is famous for occasional goofball mistakes...like the time Smilin' Stan Lee had Doctor Octopus refer to Spidey as Superman in an early issue of the wall-crawler's own mag! So all we can say, Stu, is sorry—it happens to the best of us—and we're glad you took it in good humor. (Anything for a laugh!)

Dear Doug,

"Raiders of the Lost Marc?!" That's the impression I got after reading "The Worship of False Idols" in #17—but I'm not com-

plaining. I enjoyed the Marc Spector adventure more than the main feature; too bad it couldn't have been longer.

How about extended stories? I enjoy a good super-villain epic (like the Kingpin saga in DAREDEVIL currently), and I think an epic would work good in this book—especially with the new, longer format.

Keep up the excellent work!

Andy Krieg
11324 Haleco Lane
Hales Corners, WS 53130

Dear Lunes:

MOON KNIGHT #17 was great! The art was all right! This issue's art was fantastic, and Denys Cowan's cover was good, too. I think this was one of the best stories to appear in this comic yet. The Master Sniper is a fantastic character. In this story we saw the old Marc Spector resurface, and that leads me to believe that Moon Knight and the third world slayers will be grappling for the next few issues. I hope so.

A question: how do you choose which letters are printed? Some magazines pick them at random, but this is too low-class for mighty Marvel! Am I right?

David Schmidt
134 Senator Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

You sure are, Dave! Believe it or not, we read each and every one of your letters—avidly, as a matter of fact—and pick out the most interesting and representative, for publication in our pandemonious letters pages. But there is one thing you can do to tip the scales in favor of seeing your letter in print—type or print it, double-spaced. Boy, do we bleary-eyed bullpenners appreciate it, after pouring through hundreds of letters and deciphering all kinds of different handwriting. 'Nuff said, Dave?

Dear crew,

I especially liked Issue #17. The cover was great and the story and art were fantastic. One thing, though—I noticed that on the covers of #'s 16 and 17, there isn't a UPC computer symbol or a stamp saying, "Approved by the Comics Code Authority." Why is that?

Jim Rhodes
807 Buckeye Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

That's because, Jim, we're trying a bold new experiment with MOON KNIGHT (not to mention MICRONAUTS and KA-ZAR) by printing a limited quantity of copies without advertising, and available only through specialty comics shops and the like. This means that since we aren't distributing through normal channels on a wide national basis, there's no necessity for either of the aforementioned, absent items. Thanks for noticing, and for seeking out copies of MOON KNIGHT and supporting our endeavor. It's hardcore comics enthusiasts such as yourself, Jim, who'll make this new Marvel method a success!

Dear Knight guys:

Never have I seen such wild and crazy stuff! Keep it up, please—and here's my vote for a new alternative to newsstand distribution. I really like the idea of limited-run mainstream Marvel comics being available only to collectors and those in the know. If the early issues of golden age Marvel mags are worth their weight in, literally, gold—can you imagine in times to come how rare and valuable these "direct sales" titles are going to become? Not, mind you, that I would only consider that as a reason to be so excited—but the stories and art are excellent, as always, a joy to read and to collect. Let's hear it for this latest in a long line of Marvel innovations!

T. C. Baldwin
Z-Lyps Lane
Poocherville, NC

Dear Marvel,

"The Many Phases of Moon Knight" in Moon Knight #17 was outstanding. It was an excellent recap of the previous adventures of everyone's favorite Moon Knight. However, it was Moon Knight's current adventure that left me disappointed with Issue #17. The at least three-part story lacks the excitement and pacing of previous issues. One of the main ingredients of Moon Knight's success this far has been the tremendous mood created by Doug Moench and Bill Sienkiewicz in each of the stories. It is difficult to maintain this mood over a span of consecutive issues. As a result, the story suffers. MOON KNIGHT is at its best with stories that end in one, or at most two, issues. However, to end on a positive note, the wraparound cover was beautiful.

Mark Marus
1716 Frayser Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38127

Gee, Mark, maybe you should have a talk with Doug Richardson, Andy Krieg, and David Schmidt, whose letters also appear this issue, asking for extended stories! What do all you folks out there have to say on the subject?

Dear creators:

Issue #15 was superb. Real nice. Number 15 is a prime example of why you went to expanded format—or should be the reason. More pages allow a longer, more complicated, and more intricate plot; more than just the bare facts to set the stage for a fight scene. Doug Moench is a natural for this format. His stories are of a unique style of realism over the often ostentatious super-hero story. But forget the back-up stories. I have never liked back-up stories, because they have too little room to develop, and thus are lacking in substance.

Just like everyone else, I am ecstatic about Bill Sienkiewicz's art. I realize he can't always ink his own work, but the issues that he inked as well as drew were fantastic.

Eric Urbanc
RR 7
Streator, IL 61364

Sorry to have cut your letter down to size, Eric, but even with an expansive two-page letters section, space is at somewhat of a premium. Rest assured, however, that both your praise and your criticisms have been carefully considered. That goes for the rest of you out there, too—even if your letter didn't see print, rest assured we read it, took it to heart, and most of all, appreciated the time you took to let us know how we're doing. Like everyone, we love to receive mail—the more letters, the merrier we here at Marvel are! So write, won't you, and give us your considered opinion of this issue. Next time out, we've got a heart-stopping tale for you, titled: "Master of Night Earth!"

BULLPEN BULLETIN SPECIAL

MARVEL ANNOUNCES NEW INCENTIVE PAYMENT POLICY FOR CREATORS!

A revolution has taken place in the comics industry. Beginning with its publications which go on sale in January 1982, Marvel Comics will pay an additional incentive payment, beyond the standard page rates, to the writers, pencilers, and inkers of virtually all of our publications. The additional incentive payment to the creators of each issue will be based upon the number of copies sold. To understand the significance of this bold move, a bit of history is in order.

Four years ago, Marvel Comics began dramatically increasing the salaries and benefits offered to its creative people, both freelance and those under contract. Full-time Marvel comics creators' earnings have more than doubled. The *average* person in *any* of the various disciplines (writing, penciling, lettering, inking, and coloring) earns an income many highly-skilled professionals in other fields can only envy. Also, the list of benefits which all regular creative contributors now receive is staggering. It includes major medical coverage, life insurance, reimbursement for virtually all business expenses, and more. Marvel's benefits package for creators is the best by far, in the comics industry, and, for that matter, in the *publishing* industry.

Though our increases in creators' compensation have driven up rates throughout the industry, nonetheless, we have established and maintained a wide lead over our major competitors. The reason for this was simple. We realized that as a publishing company, our true strength is our creative strength. Money spent on art and editorial should rightfully be considered an *investment*, not a cost — more money knowledgeably invested would result in greater creative returns. Predictably, dozens of outstandingly talented creative people have joined Marvel's already talent-rich staff in the last four years, while only a very few have chosen to leave. It's more than money that accounts for our success in this regard. It's the whole *philosophy* that pervades this place, a commitment to creative excellence that has always been associated with Marvel but is clearer now than ever before. We want nothing but the *best* — and we're willing to strive for it, to fight for it, to live and breathe and pay every dime we possibly can for it. Our new incentive payment plan is just another manifestation of our basic philosophy, the newest, latest step toward greater creative achievements.

WHAT WILL IT MEAN?

It will mean several things. Presuming that sales remain at current levels, it means more money for every single creative person working for Marvel Comics. For top creative people, whose books sell outstandingly well, it means a *lot* more money.

HOW WILL IT AFFECT THE COMICS?

I frankly don't think that our new incentive program could possibly motivate most of Marvel's creative crew to do better. Because we have actively recruited creative people who care deeply about their work, because we have *consistently* provided the most incentives and the freest, best creative atmosphere, I think Marvel's creators are already motivated and to a man are doing the best work in the business. Of course, the new plan won't *hurt*...

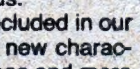
What I think the new plan will do for Marvel is attract new, young creative people, future superstars who might otherwise build careers in other fields.

Also, because we have included in our plan an incentive for creating new characters, it will mean more new ideas and more sheer excitement.

Ultimately, what our new plan will mean is better comics.

Now is a great time to be in comics. I wouldn't be anywhere else!

Sincerely,



Jim Shooter

Send comments, questions, and answers if you have any to Jim Shooter, Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Ave., N.Y., NY 10022

THE HYPE BOX

This month's *extra*-hot items...

GHOST RIDER #69 — Look for some very special fireworks in this mag from now on, as the new creative trio of ROGER STERN, BOB BUDIANSKY, and DAVE SIMONS really goes to town. We think they're gonna be the next team to really set the industry on its ear. See for yourself.

BIZARRE ADVENTURES #31 — A hard look at violence, featuring shocking, thought-provoking material on this controversial subject by FRANK MILLER, JOHN BYRNE, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, LARRY HAMA, MARK GRUENWALD, STEVE BISSETTE, and other such mild-mannered guys.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #88** — Written by DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT. Pencils by ALAN KUPPERBERG. Inks by CHIC STONE. The **Thing** and the **She-Hulk**.

☐ **TEAM AMERICA #2** — Written by DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT. Pencils by MIKE VOSBURG.

☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #44** — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Art by STEVE LEIALOHA.

☐ **DENNIS THE MENACE #8** — Written by FRED TOOLE. Art by THE KETCHAM STUDIOS.

☐ **DAZZLER #16** — Written by DANNY FINGEROTH. Pencils by FRANK SPRINGER. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.

☐ **KA-ZAR #15** — Written by BRUCE JONES. Breakdowns by BRENT ANDERSON. Finishes by ARMANDO GIL. Plus: ***Tales of Zabu*** written by BRUCE JONES with art by VAL MAYERIK.

☐ **DAREDEVIL #183** — Written by ROGER McKENZIE and FRANK MILLER. Breakdowns by FRANK MILLER. Finishes by KLAUS JANSON. At last...the *Angel Dust saga!*

☐ **G.I. JOE #1** — Written by LARRY HAMA. Pencils by HERB TRIMPE. Inks by BOB McLEOD. Collectors' item premiere issue!

☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #229** — Written by ROGER STERN. Breakdowns by JOHN ROMITA JR. Finishes by JIM MOONEY.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #270** — Written by J.M. DeMATTEIS. Pencils by MIKE ZECK. Inks by JOHN BEATTY.

☐ **THOR #320** — Written by DOUG MOENCH. Breakdowns by KEITH POLLARD. Finishes by BRETT BREEDING.

☐ **MICRONAUTS #42** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by GIL KANE. Finishes by DANNY BULANADI.

☐ **GHOST RIDER #69** — Written by ROGER STERN. Pencils by BOB BUDIANSKY. Inks by DAVE SIMONS.

☐ **MOON KNIGHT #20** — Written by DOUG MOENCH. Breakdowns by BILL SIENKIEWICZ. Finishes by STEVE MITCHELL.

☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #53** — Written by ROGER STERN. Breakdowns by MARSHALL ROGERS. Finishes by TERRY AUSTIN.

☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #272** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Art by SAL BUSCEMA.

☐ **AVENGERS #220** — Written by JIM SHOOTER. Pencils by BOB HALL. Inks by DAN GREEN.

☐ **CONAN #135** — Written by STEVEN GRANT. Pencils by MARC SYLVESTRI. Inks by JOSEF RUBINSTEIN and DANNY BULANADI.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #140** — Reprinting, in its entirety, *Amazing Spider-Man #3* — featuring the very first appearance of *Doctor Octopus* — by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO (who else?).

☐ **X-MEN #158** — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Pencils by DAVE COCKRUM. Inks by BOB WIACEK.

☐ **ROM #31** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by JOE SINNOTT.

☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #82** — Written by JO DUFFY. Pencils by DENYS COWAN. Inks by RICARDO VILLAMONTE.

☐ **MIGHTY MARVEL CONTEST OF HEROES (MINI-SERIES) #1** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by JOHN ROMITA JR. Finishes by PABLO MARCOS. *All* of Marvel's mightiest compete against each other for the greatest prize of all!

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #243** — Written, penciled and inked by JOHN BYRNE. Cover by JOHN BYRNE and TERRY AUSTIN.

☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #118** — Written by J.M. DeMATTEIS. Pencils by HERB TRIMPE. Inks by MIKE ESPOSITO. **Spider-Man**, and the X-MEN's ***Professor X!***

☐ **IRON MAN #159** — Written by DENNY O'NEIL. Pencils by CARMINE INFANTINO. Inks by DAN GREEN. Cover by CARMINE INFANTINO and BOB LAYTON.

☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #67** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils by ED HANNIGAN. Inks by JIM MOONEY.

☐ **DEFENDERS #108** — Written by J.M. DeMATTEIS. Breakdowns by DON PERLIN. Finishes by JOE SINNOTT.

☐ **STAR WARS #60** — Written by DAVID MICHELINIE. Breakdowns by WALT SIMONSON. Finishes by TOM PALMER.

☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #113** — Written by DOUG MOENCH. Art by GENE DAY.

☐ **WHAT IF #33** — *"What If* **Iron Man** *was Trapped in the Time of King Arthur?"* (a follow-up to IRON MAN #150), written by STEVEN GRANT with breakdowns by DON PERLIN and finishes by BOB LAYTON. Plus, an alternative to the ending of DAZZLER #11, ***"What If the Dazzler Had Become the Herald of Galactus?"***, written by DANNY FINGEROTH with breakdowns by MIKE VOSBURG and finishes by JOHN D'AGOSTINO. Cover by BOB LAYTON.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ **CRAZY #86** — *Time Boo-Boo* written by PAUL KUPPERBERG with art by BOB CAMP: A *Jeffersons* parody written by MURAD GUMEN with art by KENT GAMBLE; MARK BILGRAY and ANDY MUSHENSKY's *Coloring Book For the Eighties; Obnoxio; Teen Hulk;* plus more outrages. Cover by BOB LARKIN.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #76** — Written by MICHAEL FLEISHER. Breakdowns by JOHN BUSCEMA. Finishes by ALFREDO ALCALA. Cover by JOE CHIODO.

☐ **BIZARRE ADVENTURES #31** — A special look at *violence!* (See Hype Box.)

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS

☐ **#2 — ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY** — Adapted from MICHAEL MOORCOCK's original story by ROY THOMAS and P. CRAIG RUSSELL, in a 58 page full-color squarebound trade paperback.

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